



## Shamir takes Interior post

Shas staying on  
two more weeks

By SARAH HONIG  
and ASHER WALLFISH  
Jerusalem Post Correspondents  
TEL AVIV — Shas intends to remain in the coalition at least another fortnight, even though the resignation of the party's Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz is effective at 11 a.m. today.

Shas's supreme political authority, the Council of Torah Sages, has ordered the ultra-Orthodox party to stay in the coalition for another two weeks, until the council meets to reconsider whether the party should move to the opposition. Until then Interior Minister Director-General Arye Deri and Deputy Social Affairs Minister Raphael Pinhasi, both of Shas, will stay in office.

The council's decision will be of significance for the Likud — and not only because it will determine whether Shas stays in the coalition. A Shas decision to leave the coalition may impel the other religious parties to follow suit so as to appear equally dedicated to religious causes. The Orthodox parties are seen as the Likud's allies and Prime Minister Shamir said yesterday his party cannot agree to all of them breaking the coalition.

With this in mind, Shamir desperately tried yesterday to talk Peretz out of quitting, but to no avail.

## \$1 trillion budget for U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP). — President Reagan yesterday released the U.S.'s first trillion-dollar budget and urged the Democrat-dominated Congress to approve spending cuts he has targeted for some civilian sectors.

Reagan has proposed cuts of about \$42 billion, which would reduce the budget deficit to \$107.85 billion, in spending of \$1,024.6 billion for fiscal 1988, which starts October 1.

This is slightly above the figure set by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law that has set a timetable for how big the budget deficit, which is expected to reach \$173.2 billion in 1987.

Defence spending takes up nearly a third of Reagan's budget. Military expenditure for 1988 has been in-

creased by 5.45 per cent, from \$282.2 billion to \$297.6 billion.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa), and in particular its space shuttle programme, receives an increase of 30 per cent to \$10.5 billion in 1988 in the budget.

But the U.S. farm price support programme and food aid to the poor is cut by 7.5 per cent to \$144.5 billion. The president has made the fight against Aids "the administration's highest public health priority."

Money for research into Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is increased by 28 per cent to \$11.5 billion.

He also proposed an increase in foreign spending, including foreign aid, by 4.1 per cent. This sum includes a new grant of \$105 million to the Contras.

Shamir this morning takes over the Interior portfolio, but intends to keep it available for Peretz, should the Shas man decide to return to the cabinet.

Shamir spoke with Peretz by phone several times yesterday and tried to convince him that he wants a comprehensive solution to the conversion problem and not just a one-time answer that would allow the issue to crop up again every time a reform convert seeks to be registered as Jewish. But Peretz could not be convinced.

Peretz resigned following a High Court decision last month that he register Shoshana Miller, who was converted to Judaism by a reform rabbi in the U.S., as Jewish in her identity card. Peretz had sought to indicate in her ID card that she was a convert, but the court barred him from doing so.

Shas sources told *The Jerusalem Post* privately that they hoped that Peretz would somehow be able to return to the cabinet. For the time being Shas is enjoying the best of both worlds. It has not left the coalition, and with Deri running the Interior Ministry, it retains its influence and still controls funds. At the same time it is enjoying great popularity among the religious for Peretz's act of protest.

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Economic  
reform  
talks at  
dead end

By AVI TEMKIN  
Post Economic Reporter  
Talks between the government and the Histadrut on tax reform and a wage-price pact were deadlocked yesterday as Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar angrily walked out of a meeting with Vice Premier Peres and Finance Minister Moshe Nissim.

Kessar said after the meeting that the talks were blocked on the tax issue.

"We will not agree to have tax exemptions for wage earners, widows and the handicapped scrapped," Kessar angrily told a group of reporters outside Peres's office. He added that the Histadrut still insists on the appointment of a committee of independent experts to inspect the details of the government's proposals for tax reform.

It was apparently Nissim's rejection of such ideas that produced yesterday's crisis. Nissim opposes the appointment of an experts' committee and is only willing to accept a committee of officials that would work up some changes to the original Treasury plan.

Nissim and Peres emerged from last evening's meeting clearly confused and embarrassed.

Nissim said the talks with the Histadrut would continue. "We will continue talking to the labour federation even if it takes two more weeks," he said.

He added that the government would not give up its plans for tax

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The Cyprus ferry, the Sunny Boat, moors alongside the quay in Jounieh, Lebanon. (AFP telephoto)

## Cyprus ferry reaches Jounieh

Post Diplomatic Correspondent  
and Agencies

Israel yesterday denied that the U.S. had put pressure on it to lift what is alleged to be a "blockade" of the Christian Lebanese port of Jounieh.

Israeli officials were reacting to a report from Beirut quoting Lebanese government officials as saying that "intensified diplomatic contacts" by the U.S. and Cyprus had resulted in a lifting of the blockade. The Israeli officials reiterated that the Israeli Navy was not blockading Lebanese ports.

The Lebanese report followed the arrival in Jounieh on Sunday of the Cyprus ferryboat Sunny Boat, which had been turned back to Cyprus by the Navy last Friday.

The Israeli officials said that Israel's policy was, and remains, to check vessels heading for Lebanon and to prevent "terrorists" and material from reaching terrorist centres in Lebanon.

Lebanese sources during the weekend reported that Lebanese President Amin Gemayel on Saturday asked Washington to exert pressure on Israel to allow Cypriot ferryboats to reach Jounieh.

The Israeli officials said that Sunny Boat was allowed to reach Jounieh on Sunday "apparently because there were security reasons to permit it to get through."

The Sunny Boat's sister ship, the Empress, on Sunday made the voyage from Jounieh to Larnaca without being intercepted.

## Aliya committee blasts new Soviet regulations

By SARAH HONIG  
Post Political Correspondent

TEL AVIV. — The new Soviet emigration regulations were condemned last night in the most unequivocal terms yet by the Ministerial Committee on Aliya and Absorption. This is the first time such a high-level official body has hit out so fiercely at the new Soviet policy.

cabinet sources told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

However, last night the committee, headed by Labour's Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur, issued a statement that "the new emigration regulations do harm to aliya and contradict basic human rights. The public gives these regulations nothing but a public relations exercise directed at the western world only... The Israeli government cannot agree to any limitations on the Jews' right to leave. The Jews are the

only minority in the Soviet Union not allowed national and cultural rights."

Committee member Minister without Portfolio Moshe Arens told *The Post* last night that "Israel demands that Soviet Jews be allowed to leave for their national homeland. The new regulations speak vaguely about family reunification in the case of first degree relatives only and where personal problems exist."

O'Connor leaves, urges solution  
to the Palestinian problem

By HAIM SHAPIRO  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Cardinal John O'Connor of New York ended his visit to Israel last night with a plea for a solution to the problem of the Palestinians.

Speaking at a press conference at Ben-Gurion Airport before departing for Rome, O'Connor referred to the controversy over the Vatican guidelines restricting visits by high church officials to Israel. He said that the publicity may have helped highlight the plight of the Palestinians.

The prelate, who had just returned from a visit to Gaza, said: "I've been to refugee camps in many parts of the world. This is as bad as I've ever seen."

"All of us have a responsibility as human beings for the Palestinian refugees," he said, and added that "Israel must take every step to relieve the problem." "If it was ignored, the resentment could erupt into a

wave of terror in countries friendly to Israel, including the U.S.," O'Connor said, citing the Unrwa chief of Gaza, who had briefed him.

The New York cardinal, who met with Vice Prime Minister Shimon Peres yesterday morning at Peres's home in Jerusalem, said he felt that Peres had a "sincere commitment" to dealing with the refugee problem.

On his own role in publicizing the issue, he said "I'm nobody, but I'm in a visible job." He added that when he spoke to Palestinians, their main plea was that he should "let the world know."

As to the flap over the cancellation of his originally scheduled visit with Israeli leaders at their Jerusalem offices, he remarked, "We live in a world of protocol and the protocol reflects strongly felt feelings." In 1948, he noted, the Vatican entered an agreement with the UN on Jerusalem (regarding internationalization of the city) and has not

altered its position since.

Though he "would not presume to tell the pope what to do," he said that if asked, he would relate that "many people in Jordan and in Israel made clear that they felt that the Holy Father had a very important role to play" in peace-making.

It was his feeling that in the past, too few people had spoken about the Palestinian problem, perhaps because they feared appearing anti-Israeli. "But I know my own feelings and I am not against Israel."

O'Connor said that at his meeting with Peres yesterday morning, he conveyed the Vatican's concern over the situation in the Middle East, but he added that "the Holy See has no hostility towards Israel."

For the "unofficial" visit with Peres, O'Connor wore his black clerical suit, as he did when visiting President Herzog on Sunday, rather than his red cassock, the formal attire of his office.

Teacher being probed — allegedly  
advised pupils not to serve in IDF

By BERNARD JOSEPHS  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A Jerusalem teacher who reportedly advised his high school pupils to avoid serving in the army was last night facing an Education Ministry investigation.

The ministry's legal adviser, Arye Brick, said last night he had been asked to carry out inquiries into the affair to see whether the teacher had broken the law or ministry regulations.

A ministry spokesman said that if the allegations against music teacher Ofer Golani were true, Golani had violated regulations prohibiting the expression of extremist views in the classroom.

The affair, which came to light yesterday, began a month ago when Golani reportedly told a class of 16-

and 17-year-olds at Jerusalem's experimental high school that if he were 17, he would attempt to avoid army service by getting a low physical and mental rating from draft authorities. He is also said to have questioned Israel's right to exist.

The school's principal, Itai Zimran, said last night that the teacher had denied telling the pupils not to serve in the IDF.

"The teacher was speaking after an IDF officer had given a talk on army service. He said he told them not to go into the army unthinkingly, but with their eyes open."

"This is a human and educational problem. Teachers have a right to express their views, but there are limits to what can be said in the classrooms. We don't want teachers

expressing either fascist or extreme left-wing views."

Zimran said Golani had apologized for "overstepping the mark," but insisted that he made his statements simply in order to get the pupils thinking.

"He is a good teacher and I don't think he should be fired for this. He deserves another chance to prove himself," the principal said.

The affair came to the notice of the Education Ministry after two pupils wrote an article in the school magazine criticizing the teacher.

Golani is expected to be interviewed by Brick during the inquiry which, the legal adviser said, would deal with both the legal and educational aspects of the case. Golani was unavailable last night for comment.

## Cairo Jew dies, hid in basement for 22 years

CAIRO (AP). — A Jewish man who hid in his sister's basement for 22 years because he feared deportation, has died at the age of 82, police said yesterday.

Col. Mohammed Farid Hassanein, head of the police station in the Dokki section of Cairo, said Cesar Yakoub Doweik took refuge in his sister's basement in 1956, when then-president Gamal Abdel Nasser forced an estimated 65,000 Jews to leave Egypt.

Doweik's sister Akila, who could stay because she had converted to Islam and married an Egyptian lawyer, kept

him hidden in the basement of her villa until Egypt and Israel signed the 1978 Camp David agreement.

Hassanein said Doweik came to Egypt with his sister in 1905, when he was two years old. He taught French at a public school until Nasser forced the Jews to leave.

"They kept him hidden in the basement for 22 years until Camp David was signed," Hassanein said. "After that, he moved to the first floor of the villa, but he still didn't go out a lot because he was an old man."



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## France still weighing response to raid

## Gaddafi massing air force

N'DJAMENA (Reuters). — Chad accused Libya of strengthening its air power in northern Chad yesterday and criticized the Organization of African Unity (OAU), for reportedly saying Tripoli wanted peace.

Information Minister Moumine Hamdi said that in the last 24 hours Libya had massed a concentration of combat aircraft at Ouadi-Doum in northern Chad, at Aouzou, in the disputed Aouzou strip between Libya and Chad, and at a Libyan airfield, Matin Assara.

He said in a statement that Libya had moved Soviet-built MiG fighters, Tupolev and Sukhoi aircraft and military helicopters to the three airfields.

France, meanwhile, was reported weighing up how to respond to Sunday's Libyan air raid on southern Chad which a Paris newspaper described as a "slap in the face" of the French government.

French military sources said four

Libyan MiG-23s dropped five bombs on Arada, about 120 km south of the "red line" dividing the country into a Libyan-controlled north and government-held south.

France, which backs the Chadian government of President Hissene Habre, has pledged to retaliate if Libya breached the "red line" of the 16th parallel.

But Defence Ministry sources in Paris said it was not yet clear if Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi wanted to escalate the conflict or merely to save face after losing two strategic towns in northern Chad last week.

The N'djamena government says its troops captured the bases of Zouar and Fada after rebel forces formerly allied to Libya switched sides and rallied to the government.

After a similar Libyan bombing raid in February last year, when a lone bomber raided N'djamena airport, France sent its Jaguar strike aircraft to hit Libya's Ouadi Doum airfield in northern Chad.

Yesterday, Gaddafi for the first time acknowledged the presence of Libyan troops in Chad, according to the Paris leftist daily Liberation.

He said in an interview that "a few hundred men" had entered Chad to rescue a group of technicians kidnapped there, but he denied he was intervening in the country.

The French Foreign Ministry declined to comment on a message delivered to France's Ambassador in Tripoli, Michel Leveque, on Sunday which Libya described as urgent.

Le Monde, in a front-page editorial, said Gaddafi had delivered a serious slap in the face to France's 1,200-man air defence force in southern Chad.

It called for a massive response, saying: "It is a question of the French army's credibility — with the N'djamena government and France's allies in Africa."

France has stepped up arms deliveries to the government forces but has so far refused to send troops and planes north of the 16th parallel.

## 15 dead, 177 hurt in train collision near Baltimore

BALTIMORE (Reuters). — Rescuers said yesterday that 15 people were killed and 177 injured when a packed passenger train smashed into two freight engines at more than 160 kph near Baltimore Sunday.

Lieutenant Daniel Kluge, a spokesman for the Baltimore county emergency operations, said rescuers were cutting into the two remaining cars of Amtrak's New York-bound "Colonial," including the dining coach, but no more survivors were expected to be found.

Most of the 177 injured were taken in fleets of ambulances to nearby hospitals and at least nine critically injured people were flown by helicopter to a special shock-trauma unit in Baltimore.

Nearly 200 rescue workers cut, pierced and tore through the crumpled wreckage with cranes, bulldozers and torches during the night and

called off their search for survivors early yesterday, Kluge said.

Few officials and no journalists were allowed at the scene, 24 kilometres north of Baltimore, because of the heavy machinery being used in rescue efforts.

Outgoing Maryland Governor Harry Hughes told reporters at the scene earlier that the accident was a "terrible, terrible tragedy."

Earlier, rescuers succeeded in freeing an unidentified woman from the twisted hulk of the third passenger car, but only after amputating one of her legs. The workers were unable to save her three-year-old son, who died pinned beside her.

Many more people than the original estimate of 350 were on the train, Baltimore County emergency operations battalion chief Ralph Nelson said, but a precise figure was still not available yesterday.

## 'Routine' Reagan surgery shows no sign of cancer

WASHINGTON (AP). — President Ronald Reagan yesterday underwent what was described as a "very routine" prostate surgery at Bethesda naval hospital, and his doctor said afterward a preliminary examination "shows no suspicion of cancer."

The one-hour operation, to relieve what a spokesman described as "mild, recurring discomfort," was performed following a weekend physical examination that found no new evidence of colon cancer, which

Reagan suffered in July, 1985.

Prostate tissue removed in yesterday's surgery will be examined in the laboratory. But presidential physician John Hutton said a "preliminary view of all specimens shows no suspicion of cancer."

On Sunday, Reagan's private physicians found and removed four small polyps, small fleshy growths similar to several found in earlier examinations, from Reagan's colon.

## Gunmen kidnap Christian engineer on Beirut streets

BEIRUT (AP). — Four gunmen kidnapped a leading Christian engineer in West Beirut yesterday, underscoring a resurgence of lawlessness in the Moslem sector of the Lebanese capital.

Police said the abduction of Saba Daoud Abdo, a Lebanese of Palestinian origin, prompted the large company he heads to close down indefinitely after the kidnappers ignored a company demand to release him by nightfall.

Abdo, 56, in his chauffeur-driven car was heading for the headquarters Dar Al-Handassa in West Beirut when the gunmen in a Mercedes-Benz blocked his way at 8:15 a.m., police said.

The kidnappers took with them the keys to Abdo's car and to the Dar Al-Handassa office in West Beirut's plush Verdun district to report the abduction.

The re-emergence of gunpoint kidnappers was evidence of the undeclared collapse of a Syrian-sponsored security plan launched last summer to re-establish law and order in West Beirut.

Armed, uniformed militiamen are back on the streets. Shootouts and car thefts are again almost a daily occurrence and fewer people are venturing out at night.

## Talks still on with Filipino rebel groups

## Aquino faces rising leftist opposition

MANILA. — Riot police blocked about 5,000 militant workers from marching on President Corazon Aquino's office yesterday to protest the removal of Labour Minister Augusto Sanchez.

About 300 police and riot troops, carrying plastic shields and armed with rifles and nightsticks, blocked the march to Malacanang Palace at the Mendiola Bridge, more than 200 metres from the entrance to the presidential compound.

The workers began a rally at the bridge and cheered as speakers denounced the President. Troops made no attempt to interfere and the workers dispersed peacefully after about two hours.

Sanchez, popular with Labour and business groups, stepped down December 31 and was replaced by his deputy, Franklin Drilon, a 41-year-old former corporate lawyer who was sworn in yesterday.

Sanchez, in an interview with state television, urged his supporters to give Drilon "all the support needed to make his stint a success."

One speaker at the rally, former radio commentator Rick Almonte, told the cheering crowd Aquino "has been isolated from workers and peasants." He said the President failed to dismantle the Marcos regime.

The rally was the latest sign of leftist dissatisfaction with the Aquino government. Last month, the May 1 Movement (KMU) decided to oppose ratification of Aquino's new constitution in the February 2 plebiscite, charging that the charter is "anti-people" and "pro-imperialist."

Yesterday, Leto Villar, a KMU spokesman, told the rally at the bridge that if Aquino did not reconsider the dismissal of Sanchez, the union would begin calling up to 300 strikes over the next three months.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the National Cease-fire Monitoring Committee yesterday called for an extension of the truce with the Communist rebels.

Bishop Antonio Fortich, head of the five-member panel, said an extension of the 60-day cease-fire which began December 10, would give the government and rebel National Democratic Front (NDF) time to sort out the complex problems standing in the way of peace. The rebels have been waging war for 18 years.

He told reporters he favoured extending the cease-fire by another 30 or 60 days.

The two sides are to begin talks today on "substantive issues," including rebel demands for widespread land reform, a transitional government and closing of American military bases. Government officials have rejected both the transitional administration and the immediate closing of the bases. The government has offered economic and social reforms and amnesty for rebels.

U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz met their representatives during his visit to the Philippines that ended yesterday. He announced the meeting after the congressman left the country.

The spokesman, Antonio Zumel, told reports that Solarz's meeting with the rebels on Sunday had been arranged by "mutual friends" at the congressman's request.

## IN BRIEF

## Reagan's invitation to Gorbachev 'open'

WASHINGTON (AP). — The White House yesterday repeated President Ronald Reagan's invitation to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to a summit meeting in the U.S. and suggested that the meeting be held in 1987.

"The president's invitation for a U.S. summit remains open," spokesman Larry Speakes told reporters.

## Soviet space launches for 'all countries'

MOSCOW (AFP). — The Soviet Union is ready to cooperate "with all countries without exception" in peaceful space exploration and will put its technology at the disposal of other nations for commercial launches, Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov said in an interview with the Tass news agency yesterday.

The Soviet Union is prepared to offer the use of its Proton and Soyuz rockets for satellite launches, and to allow foreign equipment to be installed on Soviet satellites or on space stations already in orbit.

## France suspends official visits to Australia

CANBERRA (AFP). — The French government has suspended ministerial and official visits to Australia in retaliation for Australia's support for New Caledonian independence at the United Nations, government sources said here yesterday.

The South Pacific group of nations has successfully moved to have the UN General Assembly reclassify New Caledonia as a French colony, and France believes that Australia played a leading role in the move.

## New machine aid to anti-smoking drive

LONDON (Reuters). — British anti-smokers yesterday introduced a new machine, the smokalyzer, designed to help smokers give up the habit by showing them how much poisonous carbon monoxide they take into their bodies when smoking.

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), an anti-smoking pressure group, said the Smokalyzer worked on the same principle as the intoximeters used by police to measure body alcohol levels, giving a reading of how much carbon monoxide is contained in one breath.

## Soviet journal gives Sakharov 'free' interview

MOSCOW (Reuters). — Dissident Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov has given an interview to an official Soviet newspaper with guarantees that he may approve the written text before it is printed, sources close to Sakharov said yesterday.

The interview with the influential weekly Literaturnaya Gazeta would, if published, give Sakharov his first opportunity to air his views before the Soviet public since his release from internal exile two weeks ago.

Even before its publication, the interview marks a rare departure from policy in the Soviet Union where dissident opinions have been spurned by the official press during the previous decades.

The sources said that Sakharov gave the interview two days ago under the condition that he would be shown and would be able to sign a copy of the text before it was printed.

They said he had refused two previous requests by the newspaper for an interview while he was still living in forced isolation in the closed city of Gorky, where he was banished without trial in January 1980.

"I told them I couldn't give an interview with a noose around my neck," the sources quoted the 65-year-old Nobel peace laureate as saying. "Now the situation has changed completely."

Sakharov, who has vowed to keep pressing for the respect of human rights in the Soviet Union, had expressed surprise that an official newspaper had sought his views, the sources said, adding that he refused to discuss the subject of the interview.

## Writer-diplomat John Martin, 71

HIGHLAND PARK, Illinois (AP). — John Bartlow Martin, a biographer, diplomat and presidential speech writer, died here on Saturday, at the age of 71, of throat cancer.

Martin was a speech writer for former president Lyndon Johnson and also wrote for John Kennedy and Robert Kennedy in the 1960s during their presidential campaigns.

His writings included 13 books and numerous articles written over more than 40 years. His memoirs, *Seems Like Only Yesterday*, were published three months ago.



Some 7,000 participants show off their skills during the annual "kakizome" or first calligraphic writing of the new year held at the Nippon Budokan Hall in Tokyo yesterday. (AFP telephoto)

## Iraqi minister: We're getting U.S. spy data

By MURAD AL-IMARI  
For the Jerusalem Post

Iraq's Defence Minister has hinted that his country is receiving intelligence information from the U.S. He said Iraq would accept help from anyone except Israel in its war against Iran.

LT-Gen. Adnan Khairulla made the statements during a two-hour press conference in Baghdad at the end of last week.

Gen. Adnan said such intelligence information would counterbalance the U.S. arms sales to Iran, which he said had affected the credibility of the U.S. leadership in the region and hurt America's Arab friends.

The Iraqi defence minister added that while the U.S. had an "acceptable and legitimate" right to prepare

for Iran's post-Khomeini era by probing for spheres of influence in Teheran, the arms did not achieve that aim.

Instead of helping moderates, the arms reached the country's most extreme elements, namely the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, his son, and the speaker of the Iranian Parliament.

Gen. Adnan added that Iraq, unlike Iran, maintains formal diplomatic relations with the U.S. Therefore, the U.S. should make similar efforts to enhance its future relations with Iraq.

The general said, however, that he wouldn't be surprised if Israel continued to supply Iran with arms. "The leaders of Israel are keen to supply Iran," he said.

## UK pays last respects to Macmillan

HORSTED KEYNES, England (AP). — Harold Macmillan, the Tory prime minister who led Britain into its golden 1960s era, was buried in a simple private ceremony yesterday in the churchyard of his home village.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was among the 200 mourners who

packed the Norman church of St. Giles in this village 50 km. south of London where Macmillan worshipped most Sundays until his death a week ago at 92.

Macmillan's grandson and heir Alexander said the former prime minister's last words were, "I'll go to sleep now."

## Top Soviet team to Afghanistan after truce offer

ISLAMABAD (Reuters). — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze led a delegation of senior Kremlin foreign policy experts to Kabul yesterday soon after the launch of a new peace drive by Afghanistan's Communist leaders.

The official Kabul Radio said Shevardnadze, accompanied by former Washington ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, held talks with Afghan leader Najibullah and his senior colleagues. No details were disclosed.

The unheralded visit came four days after Najibullah announced a ceasefire from January 15 in a new bid to end his government's eight-year-old guerrilla war with Moslem rebels.


On Saturday he amplified the proposal, rejected out of hand by the Western-backed guerrillas, with an emotional appeal to the rebels to come down from the mountains under safe-conduct for talks.

The new peace drive began some three weeks after Najibullah and his top Communist Party colleagues flew to Moscow for talks with Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev.


Pakistan-based guerrilla leaders have dismissed the initiative as a fraud.

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# Leumi board okayed Japhet bonus

By PINHAS LANDAU  
Post Finance Reporter

Ernest Japhet, the former chairman of Bank Leumi who resigned last year following the Bejski Report, received five years' salary as severance pay.

The payment was authorized by the bank's board by unanimous vote in 1983, with the knowledge and approval of Jewish Agency Chairman Arye Dulzin, who is governor of the agency-owned bank.

This was revealed by Israel Saharov, a member of Leumi's board until 1984, and a member of the committee that renegotiated Japhet's contract only a few months before the bank share collapse of October 1983.

Saharov told *The Jerusalem Post* that Japhet had worked under a contract which had been due to expire when he reached the age of 65 — in May, 1986. "However, when Japhet was about 62 or 63, he broached the subject of extending the contract, since he did not want to retire at the age of 65," Saharov noted.

The former Leumi director, who headed the Sahar Insurance Co. for many years and was chairman of Israel Chemicals until 1985, stressed that the extension of the contract had been negotiated before the crisis of October 1983.

"Japhet was then chairman and chief general manager of the bank, there was no obvious successor, and he was doing his job satisfactorily. Do you think we would have given him an extension afterwards?" he challenged.

Under the existing contract that was due to expire in 1986, Japhet's annual salary had been fixed every year by a committee of board members chaired by industrialist Yossi Peker. The other



Ernest Japhet

(Daniel Blatt)

members of the committee were Saharov, Micha Efrati of Kibbutz Geva, and Japhet himself.

Japhet's salary comprised a basic salary and a bonus which varied with the bank's earnings. Furthermore, the rate of inflation, both in Israel

and abroad, was a major consideration in determining the yearly salary increase. Saharov refused to comment on reports that Japhet's salary had run into hundreds of thousands of dollars and possibly as much as \$1 million a year.

He emphasized that the committee only made proposals. The entire board, including Dulzin, had to authorize them, he said.

The board also empowered the committee to negotiate a new contract with Japhet, to run for the period from his 65th to his 70th birthdays — May 1986 to May 1991. The contract was unanimously approved.

The contract stipulated that in the event of Japhet's being fired, he would receive a multiple of his annual salary as severance pay.

Japhet resigned as chairman and chief executive of Bank Leumi on May 11 last year, under pressure from Dulzin and the rest of the board after the publication of the Bejski Report on the share collapse. The committee, consisting then of Japhet's successor as chairman, Eli Hurvitz, Peker, Efrati and attorney Amnon Goldenberg (who had replaced the by-then-retired Saharov), met in secret to decide how to translate the terms of Japhet's contract into dollars and cents.

According to Saharov, Japhet had demanded that he receive the five years of salary coming to him under the new contract, arguing that he had been forced to resign. Saharov said he was unsure whether the contract allowed severance pay upon resignation, rather than dismissal.

It has also been reported recently that under the deal Japhet concluded with the bank, he was granted a monthly pension of \$30,000 — in addition to the severance pay.



Relatives of the Aroesti family pay their respects yesterday at the funeral of Yitzhak Aroesti, 41, and his three children, who died on Saturday when fire struck their Givatayim home. Hundreds of people attended the funeral service at the Kiryat Shaul cemetery. Yitzhak's wife, Dafna, remains in serious condition at the Sheba hospital. Givatayim fire chief Ephraim Ma'aravi, a pallbearer of one of the children, cried out: "I did everything I could. Why?" Yitzhak was eulogized by the mayor and others as a devoted father to Itai, 8, Idit, 6 and Yair, 4. A friend of the family said that Yitzhak had dreamed that when his son Itai, a gifted flautist, reached the age of 18 there would be peace in Israel and "instead of waving a sword, he would wave his flute... but the children will never reach 18 and they will never again play their music."

## Orthodox Christmas festivities begin today

By HAIM SHAPIRO  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Christian Orthodox community begins its Christmas festivities this morning when the Greek Orthodox patriarch and the Syrian and Coptic bishops lead a solemn procession into Bethlehem. The community celebrates Christmas tomorrow.

Several hundred pilgrims have arrived for the holiday, including orga-

nized groups from the U.S. and Great Britain. About 500 visitors have come from Greece.

The third and final Christmas fete is that of the Armenians, which is celebrated on January 18 and 19.

This afternoon, the Roman Catholic Church celebrates Epiphany, the manifestation of the infant Jesus to the Magi.

## Ye Olde Spy Shoppe

MIAMI (AP). — There's a new store where you can outfit yourself like super-spy James Bond with the latest in counter-surveillance equipment, night-vision gear and anti-kidnapping and tracking devices.

Spy Shops International Inc. opened last Friday, attracting about 30 customers. Owner John Demeter, said a group of Israelis came from New York and several clients were from South America and Europe.

Demeter, 40, was an international security consultant for more than 10 years. He said he decided to use his acquired expertise to help people worried about unstable conditions in the world and came up with the shop of security products.

"People are worried about personal security and, lately, terrorists," the Canadian citizen said at the opening.

He's got a hand-held stun gun, priced at \$58, that can jolt an assailant with 70,000 volts of electricity. It's not to kill, he said, but to "just immobilize an attacker."

Then there are telephone scramblers and equipment designed to detect bugs, phone taps and wireless microphones. They go for thousands of dollars apiece.

For corporate executives or statesmen, there is a bullet-proof briefcase and an anti-kidnapping device with a transmitter that can be sewn into a belt or coat to track someone by air within a 40-kilometre range.

Special customers get the back-room treatment where they can pick out sophisticated, high-tech equipment costing up to \$25,000.

For ground transportation, Demeter can equip cars with custom-designed anti-terrorist packages that include a computerized tracking system to locate a vehicle in case of kidnapping and a mechanism for releasing tanks from the rear to flatten pursuers' tires.

Demeter, who said he does security work for Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Panama and the U.S., pointed out that most of the equipment he sells requires State Department approval to export, and that federal statutes prohibit the surreptitious use of listening devices.

He said he'll do a background check on anyone who makes a large purchase.

"I really screen them," he said. "No terrorists and only approved governments."

## List of Nazi suspects living in W. Germany sent to Kohl

By ERNIE MEYER  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Simon Wiesenthal Centre has sent a list of 44 suspected Nazi war criminals from the Baltic region to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. It includes the names and in some cases also the addresses of persons who are known to have taken up residence in West Germany after the war.

Most of the suspects are former Lithuanians and Latvians who took

part in massacres of Jews during World War II, according to Holocaust historian Efraim Zuroff, who heads the Jerusalem office of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre.

This is the sixth such list compiled here, following those sent to Australia, England, Canada, Venezuela and Sweden in recent weeks. The information in the lists is based on research done in the archives of Yad Vashem and other Israeli institutions.

## Jewish student body elects leader without Israeli political ties

By ANDY COURT  
For The Jerusalem Post

The World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS), apparently asserting its independence from the influence of Israeli political parties, has elected as the new chairman an American student activist without close ties to the political establishment here.

Yosef Abramowitz, a Boston University graduate, is, at 22, the youngest chairman in WUJS history. He emerged from a field of candidates with far more established links to the student unions around the world than constitute WUJS.

Two of those candidates, Moshe Ronen, head of the North American Students Network, and Eric Ghebbeli of the French students' union — had close ties to the World Zionist Organization's student division. The student division has been accused by some WUJS leaders of pressuring the student unions to align themselves with the Liberal Party and engage in membership drives on its behalf. A third candidate, Ophir Pines of the Israeli students' union, is a leading student activist in the Labour party.

By contrast, the B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation, in which Abramowitz has been active, has historically operated completely outside the sphere of WUJS politics, concentrating instead on providing services to the Jewish students in large universities through the U.S. Only in the past few years, through the efforts of outgoing WUJS chairman David Makovsky, have a few Hillel leaders, including Abramowitz, begun to have some involvement with WUJS. (See story — page 5)

Though a relative newcomer to WUJS, Abramowitz has already attracted national attention in the U.S. for his activism against apartheid and for Soviet Jewry. When Boston University officials threatened to expel him from his dormitory if he did not remove an anti-apartheid sign hung from his window, he took the university to court and won. In 1985, he was arrested outside the Soviet Embassy in Washington while demonstrating on behalf of refusenik student Boris Lifshitz.

"I know that Israel is a highly politicized society, but I'm going to do what I can to protect my integrity and that of WUJS," Abramowitz said after his election.

The "wholesomeness" of WUJS — the extent to which its leaders represent the consensus of Jewish students throughout the world as

opposed to the political interests of factions within Israel — was an important concern of many delegates. In this respect, Abramowitz's "go-getter" campaign, in which he distributed two-page resumes instead of relying on backroom dealing, had strong appeal.

Beyond that, Abramowitz demonstrated skills in leadership and advocacy.

In addition, he has already published three short books for Jewish-interest groups, the latest titled, *Arab Racism: The Politics of Double Standards*, which was published by B'nai Brith's Anti-Defamation League. His political heroes, he says, are David Ben-Gurion and Martin Luther King.

For all his qualifications, the newly elected chairman faces the possibility of internal strife. The congress did little to diffuse tensions between the European Union of Jewish Students (EJUS) and the French students' union, which broke away from EJUS last September following the re-election of EJUS chairman Maram Stern.

Meanwhile, Abramowitz's election has brought with it possibilities of conflict on another front. The North American Students Network organization, a Jewish activist organization that grew out of the student movement of the 1960s and which is the sole North American member of WUJS, sees the election of a prominent Hillel activist as something of a threat.

Network's leaders have been appalled, at least for the moment, by a resolution, unanimously approved, stating that the WUJS chairman would have to go through Network if he wanted to pursue relations with other organizations such as Hillel.

Some delegates to the congress had called for a strongly worded criticism of the WZO student division, which would be presented at the WZO's congress this November in Jerusalem. The WUJS delegates, however, passed a much milder resolution calling for each union to prepare a detailed report for the WZO congress "with facts and figures, criticism and praise of the WZO."

Though Abramowitz ran as an "independent" candidate, he had the quiet support of the European students' union. With added support of European, South African, and Australian delegates, he won on the second ballot over Yitzhak Sikolov, who has been active in the WUJS Jerusalem headquarters.

## Accord signed to lure MDs to development-area hospitals

By JUDY SIEGEL

Post Science and Health Reporter

Top physicians and medical researchers will be less likely to leave hospitals in development areas following the recent signing of an accord granting "academic status" to six such hospitals.

Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almosino had fought for the agreement for 15 years, and it had long been resisted by the Council for Higher Education and the Technion. Under the agreement, each of the hospitals — Safad, Nahariya, Poriya (Tiberias), Afula, Hillel Yaffe (Hadera) and Barzilai (Ashkelon) is now affiliated with a medical school or university. With the accord, all hospitals in the country now enjoy such affiliation.

Doctors at the hospitals can now apply for academic titles, ranging from lecturer to professor, and receive the corresponding higher pay.

The Health Ministry pledged to pay for additional equipment, research laboratories, and libraries to help upgrade hospital staffs.

In addition, students from the Technion and Ben-Gurion University medical schools will spend time in the six hospitals and receive credit for field training.

Since no one can be a professor of medicine unless he teaches or conducts research, the best medical minds have tended to leave the outlying areas for work at hospitals in the centre of the country. Now they will be encouraged to stay in the north and in Ashkelon, or return there, says the ministry, and medical services in those areas will improve.

## 'Israel needs way to win back hearts of Scandinavia's young'

By JOEL REBIBO

Israel's stand on Palestinian rights and its refusal to boycott South Africa have led many young Scandinavians to question their parents' admiration for Israel, according to Jewish National Fund Chairman Moshe Rivlin.

"At one time, Scandinavia was a bastion of support for Israel, but this new generation takes issue with Israeli policies on South Africa, Iran and the Palestinians. More and more, we need an attentive ear to Israel's story."

Rivlin, who returned recently from a two-week tour of Scandinavia, is convinced that Israel can win the hearts of the young by publicizing its ecological advances.

"The idea of pushing back the desert is very fashionable now," he says. "We need a public relations campaign to show what we've done to preserve the environment and how we're helping the Third World by sharing our expertise. These are the kinds of things that can improve Israel's image."

Rivlin also wants to encourage tree-planting in the Holy Land which, he says, has an emotional appeal to many non-Jews and is not seen as a political or controversial act.

When Queen Juliana of the Netherlands recently hosted a party

for a member of the Royal Council, she presented each of her 78 guests with a certificate verifying that a tree had been planted in his honour.

When Eli Wiesel, a popular figure in Norway, received the Nobel Peace Prize last year, a local rabbi, Uri Schwartz, proposed that a forest be planted in Israel in his honour.

The *Aften Post*, a daily newspaper with a circulation of 360,000, decided to sponsor the forest and turned to its readers for contributions. The response was overwhelming, and it now appears certain that the Wiesel Forest will join the six forests already planted by Norway's non-Jews.

Rivlin was repeatedly surprised by the intensity of the support for Israel among Scandinavians. In Finland, where there are only 1,000 Jews, there are 19 Finland-Israel Friendship associations.

Some 2,500 people from all over Finland went to Helsinki — some travelling as much as 400-500 kilometres — to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of David Ben-Gurion and the 85th birthday of the JNF.

"It was a demonstration of love that is difficult to describe," recalls Rivlin. "They sat from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. listening attentively. They had copies of my speech in their hands. As I turned the page, I looked out

and saw 2,500 people simultaneously doing the same. At the end of the evening, they sang *Hatikva* with such feeling."

During his two-week tour, Rivlin visited the Jewish communities, who were eager to hear good news from Israel to counter the negative publicity surrounding the Iran arms sales and the Vanunu affair.

But Scandinavian Jews need more than good news from Israel, says Rivlin. Assimilation and intermarriage have taken their toll of Jewish communities, in spite of the efforts of their leaders.

A major problem for Scandinavian Jewish communities is finding spiritual leadership. Rabbis, who must also serve as ritual slaughterers and circumcisers, are unwilling to stay in far-flung communities that offer no religious environment for their families.

"Israel has taken from such communities for 40 years, and now it has a responsibility to give in return," says Rivlin. "We should be sending emissaries who are able to fill spiritual needs as well."

"Denmark has a Jewish day school of 300 students and there are no teachers from Israel except emigrés who have intermarried. We have a responsibility to these communities. It is in our own national interest."

## San Francisco Jews bypass Agency on democracy grant

By TOM TUGEND

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LOS ANGELES. — The directors of San Francisco's Jewish Community Federation have decided to take a direct hand in addressing three of Israel's current social problems by giving final approval to a \$100,000 allocation, which by-passes the normal distribution channels of the Jewish Agency.

Although described as an "experiment" rather than a break with established procedures, the move is intended to send a "signal to the Jewish Agency to alter its priorities," according to Richard Goldman, one of the architects of the plan.

The programme, first outlined in September, seeks improvements in three primary areas: democracy in Israel, including Arab-Jewish relations; Israel-Diaspora ties; and religious pluralism.

Specifically, the following grants were approved by the board of the Jewish Community Federation (JCF) of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties, according to a report in the *Northern California Jewish Bulletin*.

- \$13,250 to the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem for public and secondary school projects promoting democratic pluralism and the concept of a multi-ethnic society. The project, partially funded by the Israeli Ministry of Education, will reach teachers and students through books and television programmes depicting the life-styles of families representative of Orthodox Jews, secular Jews, Moroccans, kibbutzniks, Arab Christians, and Arab Muslims.

- \$34,522 to the Jerusalem-based Melitz Centre for Jewish-Zionist Education for the purpose of forming high school and youth movement debating societies, to further cultural tolerance in Israeli development towns. Targets are communities in Kiryat Shmona, Tiberias, Safed, and an area outside Tel Aviv.

- \$24,688 to Tel Aviv University's School of Education for its in-service training programme for principals. Through lectures, workshops and classes for 70 secondary and elementary school principals, and the cooperation of the Ministry of Education, the project is aimed specifically at combating anti-Arab prejudice in Israeli society.

An additional allocation of \$28,000 is scheduled to be approved within a month, bringing the total to slightly over \$100,000. All the projects will be marked by a close working relationship between American and Israeli experts.

When the direct grant plan was first made public in September at a Young Jewish Leadership Assembly in Israel, it was sharply criticized by Jewish Agency leaders as a threat to the established centralized system in which money for Israel collected through United Jewish Appeal campaign in the U.S. is distributed at the other end by the Jewish Agency.

Some American Jewish leaders have also tried to dissuade the San Francisco federation from carrying out its plan, fearing that federations in other cities might be tempted to follow the California example.

The San Franciscans have sought to allay these fears by reaffirming their basic commitment to the UJA-Jewish Agency structure and pointing out that the \$100,000 is but a fraction of the federation's annual allotment of \$8.5 million to the Jewish Agency.

They have also proclaimed that the projects will encourage direct involvement by Diaspora Jews in Israel's needs, a prime aim of the overall programme, and they stress the continued crucial role of Israeli input.

The Israeli end of the programme is controlled by Amuta, a non-profit organization run by a 15-member board of prominent Israelis in the professions, industry, and the arts, and headed by Avraham Infeld. It was the Amuta board, the San Franciscans point out, who came up with the specific project proposals funded by the JCF.

Nevertheless, some discontent with the ways of the Jewish Agency comes through in remarks by Goldman, a former JCF president and now chairman of the organization's overseas committee.

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Visitors coming from Jaffa Gate will find somebody waiting at the beginning of David Street to take them to the church. Tickets at the church.



# The Zionization of Wujs

Calev Ben-David

"YOU ARE the future of the Jewish People," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told 1,200 students gathered in Jerusalem last week for the World Union of Jewish Students assembly. The truth of his remark was borne out by the level of energy and activity at the Diplomat Hotel, the seriousness of the questions raised, and the occasional sharpness of the points debated.

Wujs called the gathering the largest international student conference ever held, and it reflected the strength the organization has built up under the inspired leadership of its retiring chairman, David Makovsky. Jewish students from 40 different countries were in attendance, over half of them from South Africa.

"This reflects the growth of Jewish student activism owing to the uncertainty of the situation in South Africa," according to Howard Sackstein, chairman of that country's Jewish students' union. "Many of us came here to study the possibility of living in Israel."

Elsewhere, Wujs has successfully bucked the current trend towards student apathy with a vigorous campaign for Soviet Jewry. This was a major topic of the gathering, with a speech by Natan Sharansky, a continuous roll-call of refusniks, and a special candle-lighting ceremony at the Western Wall. Other sessions at the conference covered the widest possible range of Jewish concerns, including workshops on Jewish identity, the impact of the Holocaust, the Mid-East conflict, Israel and the media, and combating apartheid.

MAKOVSKY stressed that the gathering's purpose was educational, not political. But since the participants were both Jewish and students, politics was naturally the subject most on everybody's mind. The



Yossi Abramowitz (Adam Teitelbaum)

strong South African presence gave rise to heated debates on the proper "Jewish" approach to apartheid, and opinions from all perspectives were aired regarding Israel's policy towards South Africa, the Soviet Union, and the Palestinians.

The students also demonstrated the dramatic shift from radicalism to conservatism that has marked their generation. In the session on Israel in the news, the hostility expressed towards the media was so marked that former Government Press Office director Morty Dolinsky found himself in the unusual position of defending freedom of the press before an angry audience.

With the election of David Makovsky's successor then imminent, the internal politics of Wujs was also a major topic of discussion among the student leaders in the Diplomat lobby. Like most student organizations, Wujs has sporadically undergone internal political upheav-

als, particularly with regard to its often stormy relationship with the Zionist movement.

The union was founded in Antwerp in 1924, primarily to combat the Jewish student quotas that were beginning to proliferate throughout Europe. Shattered by World War II, it wasn't until the period of rising student activism in the 1960's that it was able to reassert itself effectively as an international student body. This was also a time of rising sentiment against Israel among radical student elements, and Wujs fought the ideological battle on campuses against the anti-Zionist faction of the New Left.

In the period of Zionist euphoria following the 1967 War, the World Zionist Organization, which had become Wujs' main sponsor, decided to try to bring the students formally into the Zionist Movement. But they did not count either on the students' desire for independence, or on a political orientation far more to the left than the Jewish establishment. The Wujs leadership rejected the Jerusalem Programme, which called for aliyah from all countries. And in 1970 it drafted the "Arad programme" which, among other things, called for "the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian Arabs... as a consequence of Zionist ideology."

THIS WAS too much for the WZO, which after the 1972 Zionist Congress began cutting its funding for Wujs. Six years later, after student political attitudes had shifted, Wujs was weakened by internal problems, the union accepted the Jerusalem Programme and again began to work with the WZO. The next year its headquarters was shifted from London to Jerusalem, a move that many of the student leaders attributed to undemocratic Zionist political machinations.

Under Makovsky's tenure, begun in 1984, Wujs has solidified its posi-

tion in relation to the Zionist establishment to the point where WZO head Arye Dulzin pledged the students last week to work for guaranteed student representation at the Zionist Congress next December. One reason for the new respect for Wujs is undoubtedly Makovsky's success at finding alternative sources of funding for Wujs, such as the World Jewish Congress head Edgar Bronfman.

Yet problems persist between the students and the WZO, particularly in the relationship between Wujs and the WZO Student Division set up in 1979.

Student Division director Michael Jankelowitz was outraged at the conference by an article in the Wujs magazine *Shofar* criticizing his department for not being an effective advocate for students within the Zionist movement, and citing examples where the Wujs chairman had gone over the division's head to appeal for funds directly to Dulzin.

Jankelowitz criticized Makovsky's moves as "Machiavellian," asserting that the conference would not have been a success without his division's support. Makovsky countered: "Machiavelli would have been out of his league in dealing with Zionist politics."

THE CURRENT argument reflects the deeper underlying tension in the Jewish world between the student activists' desire for independence and their continued reliance on support from the established Jewish organizations.

Both Makovsky and Jankelowitz agree that student activism is undervalued in the WZO and other Jewish organizations, and this problem could intensify for Makovsky's successor. *The man elected was a dark horse, Yossi Abramowitz, who has been active in Hillel at Boston University.*

What is clear is that the Jewish establishment badly needs the enthusiasm of the young that was evident at the Wujs gathering.

## Yiddish at Oxford



Oxford's three-man Yiddish faculty in a cafe during a recent break between classes. Left to right: New York-born Dr. David Katz, 30; London-born Dr. Christopher Hutton, 28, and Moscow-born Dov-Ber Kerler, 28.

SOME 30 leading Yiddish scholars from three continents converged at Oxford University last month for the second Oxford Winter Symposium in Yiddish Language and Literature.

This year's topic was "Dialects of the Yiddish Language."

Prof. Robert D. King of the University of Texas reconstructed the evolution of the Yiddish dialect of

Poland. Prof. Wolf Moskovich, of the Hebrew University, analysed the vocabulary of Bessarabian Yiddish. Bar-Ilan University's Prof. Joseph Bar-El traced the systematic replacement of certain Western Yiddish religious terms by newer Eastern forms that were gaining currency several hundred years ago.

Shmuel Hiley, a member of London's hassidic community, revealed features of the vowel system of Yiddish in western Poland never before noticed by Yiddish scholars. His field work was done with informants in Stamford Hill, a London district with a concentrated hassidic population.

The growing contingent of Oxford University research students specializing in Yiddish made their debuts by reading papers at the symposium. One of them, Marion Aptroot, discussed the influence of Dutch on Yiddish literature in Amsterdam in the 17th century, when Amsterdam was the world centre of Yiddish publishing activity.

Oxford has become a leading world centre for Yiddish studies. Seven doctoral students are researching topics in Yiddish studies, over 300 have studied in the intensive summer programme.

Dov-Ber Kerler, shown in the photo, emigrated from the Soviet Union to Israel in 1971 after a protracted struggle with the authorities. In 1984, he became Oxford's first doctoral student. His father is Jerusalem Yiddish poet Yosef Kerler.

(Special to The Jerusalem Post)

## Jewish museum in Dublin

David Brauner

THE IRISH Jewish Museum at 34 Walworth Road in Dublin's Portobello quarter is easily missed. It is just another entrance to one of the many terraced houses in a square mile where once one in every three homes was Jewish. Now only seven, or eight families remain.

In a land of emigration — both the native population and the Jews are leaving Ireland — the museum appears to be little more than a dying community's last gasp. Before they leave, one way or the other, the Jews empty out their attics and basements of letters, photos and Jewish memorabilia and donate it to the dustless atmosphere in the glass cases on the museum's ground floor.

The display occupies the area that had once been the Walworth Road Shul hall. The hall's kitchen, now being restored to its 1920s state, was once part of Manny Brown's house. That's right, Manny Brown of Brown's Bookshop in Tel Aviv. The two houses were joined in 1942 to expand the building to its present size.

The old shul itself is upstairs. Inside it echoes with the silence of an empty tomb. An unused *talit* hangs limply over the *bima*. A *hupa* stands empty in the corner. Long gone is the singing on Shabbat morning, the little boys and girls running up and down the aisles between the long seats on coarse wooden floors, and the congregation who knew and remembered the names on the plaques on the walls.

Had we only seen the Irish Jewish Museum and not talked to its president, Dr. Jerry Tolkin, we would have gone away, to be sure, with quite a wrong impression of Irish Jewry.

TOLKIN, a large man whose infectious bedside manner extends well beyond his GP's surgery, said that the Jewish population of Ireland today stands at 1,750 out of a total of approximately three million, 95 per cent of whom are Roman Catholic. Nevertheless, there are three Jews in the Dail, the Irish parliament, one Jewish High Court Justice and one Jewish judge.

The Jewish community itself, which these days means the Dublin community, supports one Liberal and two Orthodox synagogues, a mikve, an abattoir and two kosher butchers, a kosher bakery, a Jewish kindergarten, a day school and *heder*, a Jewish golf club, a Maccabi sports club, a Jewish Student Union and an Irish Soviet Jewry Committee. This last reminded Tolkin that he and a number of others were flying over to London specially to hear Natan Sharansky speak at the Albert Hall.

And how does the Jewish minority get along with the Catholic majority? The Chief Rabbi of the Republic



Dr. Jerry Tolkin (David Brauner)

of Ireland Ephraim Mirvis, together with the Archbishop of Dublin, is invited to all official functions. Mirvis also appears twice a year on state television to explain the meanings of the Jewish Passover and Rosh Hashana holidays. But in a country where no divorce is permitted, Jews must go "across the water," usually to England to get a get.

THE STORY of the Tolkin family in Ireland is typical of the last century of Jewish history on the Emerald Isle. In a variation on the old story, Tolkin related with a hint of a glint in his eye how Eastern European Jews got off the boat at Cork believing that they had arrived in New York.

His grandfather, one of these New York Jews, was a scrap metal merchant. During the troubles of 1916 he collected brass shell casings from British army camps and sold them as scrap to the locals. He had to travel 40 miles out of Dublin in the week, but on Fridays he was always back in time for the Sabbath.

As a member of the Dublin Board of Guardians, Tolkin's grandfather took it upon himself to go aboard ships stopping in Ireland and seek out Jewish immigrants bound for the U.S. On behalf of the community he gave to each one he found half a crown, loaves of bread and some tea.

Encouraged by their parents, the present generation goes abroad —

mostly to the UK, the U.S. and Israel. In Tolkin's family two children have already emigrated to Canada and his youngest son at 21 is also on the way there. Only one son is staying behind to run a video business.

THOSE who stay behind aren't quietly rolling over, though. The establishment of the Irish Jewish Museum, officially opened in June 1985 by President Herzog whose family heirlooms take up a prominent corner of the old hall, testifies to the vitality of Jews of Dublin.

So far, the museum has cost some IR£40,000. Irish government funds channelled through the Bord Fáilte (the Irish Tourist Board) have offset some of the expense to the community.

Since its opening, about 2,000 visitors have come to the museum, including 600 from abroad. On Sunday mornings old men from the neighbourhood who say they were "Shabbos boys" as boys drop in after church services for a bit of nostalgia. The museum is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. May to September; but from October to April, on Sundays only, during the same hours.

On the day we came to the museum Tolkin was particularly happy and bursting to tell somebody about it. Our Israeli ears were the ideal receptors for his news.

The museum has recently acquired the plans of a synagogue that was to have been built in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, in the early 1920s. But it never was. As a result, the Jews of Londonderry sent the Tora scroll which was to have been housed in the synagogue to a kibbutz in Eretz Yisrael. Unfortunately, the name of the kibbutz has been lost and with it the story of this early Israel-Irish connection.

The thought that somebody in Israel might possess information leading to the identity of the kibbutz excited Tolkin, because as he put it, "what is left of the Jews of Ireland 'are the last remnants of a community who specialize in remembering.'"

The Jewish World, which appears on alternate Tuesdays, is edited by Aryeh Rubinstein.

## Computerized world-wide match-making

AN INTERNATIONAL computerized system containing the names of Jewish singles throughout the world, in order to facilitate correspondence and friendship, may soon be created. Eliezer Sheffer, head of the Young Leadership (*Dor Hemshech*) department of the World Zionist Organization, outlined such a plan at a meeting of the committee on Jewish demography.

According to Sheffer, a factor in the problem of intermarriage is lack of opportunities to meet young Jewish singles. At a European conference of Dor Hemshech in November, he said, young Jewish women from small communities in Italy, Greece and France said they had no opportunity to meet eligible Jewish men from other countries.

Prof. Roberto Bacchi, supporting the proposal, stressed the need for preliminary research in order to evaluate its chances of success.

**Flexible goals and timetables.** Not quotas: The American Jewish Committee has come out strongly in favour of numerical goals and timetables, not quotas, in job discrimination cases. In an article in the current *AJC Journal*, Samuel Rabinove, AJC's legal director, states: "To eliminate discrimination, the AJC is committed to the effectiveness of flexible goals and timetables, while maintaining that fixed percentage quotas are not an appropriate remedy."

"Quotas," he adds, "downgrade individual merit, set one group against another and cannot be reconciled with genuine equal opportunity for all. As opposed to a quota, a flexible goal is a realistic objective. All that is needed is a good faith effort to meet a goal and timetable. If there is such an effort, and if for a good reason the goal is not met, in contrast to failure to meet a quota, no penalty is imposed."

Commenting on recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions on the subject, Rabinove asserts that carefully crafted affirmative action plans are more likely than not to be upheld, and Federal district courts will be allowed broad discretion in evaluating the terms of those plans.

**New movement to educate youth on Holocaust:** Lapid, a new movement to educate youth on the meanings of the Holocaust and the lessons to be derived from it, was inaugurated in Jerusalem last month. It plans seminars and lecture programmes for soldiers, high school students and kibbutzim, to be financed by donations.

Lapid means Torch. According to one of its founders, Aharon Remez, it will concentrate on the practical significance of the Holocaust to present life, unlike the Yad Vashem

### THE FOUR CORNERS

memorial which is devoted mainly to documenting the Holocaust.

Remez, a former Air Force commander and former Ambassador to Britain, said the movement will seek to educate the younger generation on democratic values, the treatment of minorities, and the readiness to defend the rights of the individual even if they vary from the rights of the majority.

**Brussels rabbi moves to Strasbourg:** Only 16 months after Rabbi Rene Gutman took up his post as rabbi of Brussels' main synagogue, he will leave Belgium in this month to become Chief Rabbi of the Lower-Rhine (the Strasbourg region), one of the most important rabbinical posts in France.

When he came to Brussels from France, Remez reports, there was speculation that Rabbi Gutman, 36, was viewed as the best candidate for the post of chief rabbi of Belgium which has been vacant since the departure to Israel of Rabbi Robert Dreyfus.

Rabbi Gutman seems to have been disappointed by the somewhat "bazy" situation prevailing around the eventual nomination of a chief rabbi. Since the departure of the last chief rabbi, some of his functions — army chaplain, visits to the various Jewish communities, and the supervision of Jewish teaching in schools — have been taken up by a rabbi especially named by the Jewish Central Consistory of Belgium.

**Museum apologizes for slur:** The Metropolitan Museum of Art has apologized for a slur reference to Jews in its Summer 1986 Bulletin after a protest was lodged by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Museum president William Luers said the Met found the offensive passage "regrettable and distressing," in a letter to Carol Lister, director of the ADL's New York regional office.

Lister wrote to the Museum's director, Philippe de Montebello, protesting a reference to Jews that appeared in the Bulletin titled "A Medieval Bestiary," devoted to the allegorical use of animals in medieval art from the Met's collection.

The author, art historian J.L. Schraeder, described the owl as "a symbol of darkness and hence of the Jews who rejected Christ, the light of the world, as their king; for they said, 'We have no King but Caesar.'"

Lister stated in her letter that "to perpetuate this ugly medieval notion is unworthy of our country's most distinguished museum and a gra-

titious insult to many of its devoted patrons." Luers promised in reply "to redouble our efforts to guarantee that the like does not happen again."

He wrote that the museum was "genuinely grateful" to the ADL "for pointing out our mistake."

**Christopher Sykes, 79:** Christopher Sykes, author and historian, died last month at age 79. The son of Sir Mark Sykes, who played a key role in promoting and issuing the Balfour Declaration, Christopher Sykes wrote extensively on Zionism and the rise of Israel.

**Crossroads to Israel (1965)** remains a standard work on the Arab-Israeli conflict, reflecting the author's intimate knowledge of Zionist affairs. He also wrote the definitive biography of Gen. Orde Wingate, the pro-Zionist British officer, whom he greatly admired.

In *Two Studies in Virtue* (1953), he portrayed the career of his father, Assistant Secretary to the War Cabinet, who died at a young age shortly after World War I.

**New Grants by Jewish Fund for Justice:** The Jewish Fund for Justice — a two-year-old national Jewish grant-making institution which funds efforts to combat poverty and social injustice in the U.S. — has announced the award of eight year-end grants with which the Fund will exceed its 1986 grant-making goal of \$100,000.

One of the grants will provide continuing support for an innovative programme that assists Navajo Indian farmers in their efforts to employ Israeli desert cultivation techniques; other grants will support community organizations in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Connecticut, Kentucky, Texas, New Mexico and California that are working to change the con-

ditions that keep people poor and powerless.

Under its newly established Fund for Israeli Technical Assistance, JFJ will award \$30,000 to the Seventh Generation Fund for its Navajo/Israeli Intensive Crop Production Project in Arizona's Painted Desert.

The grant will underwrite the salary of Ron Scherzer, an agronomist on leave from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, who is helping Navajo farmers adapt Israeli drip irrigation methods for use on their own land. The project, now in its third year, is said to have dramatically increased crop yields and has brought the Navajos new income and increased self-sufficiency.

**Zionist coalition:** Three Zionist organizations have formed a coalition to provide a voting bloc in the World Zionist Congress scheduled to be held in December 1987 in Jerusalem, JTA reports from New York.

The bloc, the United Israel-Zionist Coalition, comprises Herut, Tebiya and Tami, "three American Zionist organizations that share a desire for Israel's peace and security, settlement of Judea and Samaria, and a dynamic free enterprise economy," according to a statement issued by the Herut Zionists of America, which also announced the formation of the coalition. The coalition also includes the Betar and Tagar youth movements.

Harry Taubenfeld, chairman of Herut's U.S. election committee, said the coalition "is a unique and historic agreement — the first formal alliance of American Zionist organizations. Away from the pettiness of partisan Jewish struggles, the coalition indicates Herut's desire to unify efforts to promote peace and democracy for the State of Israel, as well as the integrity of Jews worldwide."

## New mini-magazine

"WHAT if the great enterprise were to fail because not enough Jews came? That is one question I cannot fail to ask Diaspora Jews," says Prof. Emil Fackenheim, referring of course to the State of Israel. He himself now resides in Jerusalem.

Says Dr. Jack J. Cohen, a leader of the Mevakesh Derech congregation in Jerusalem: "We must re-examine the conventional assumptions of Zionist ideology. Only extreme political conditions are capable of uprooting masses of Jews from where they live."

And Dr. Hertzl Fishman, a member of the World Zionist Executive: "It is not the state that is the goal of Zionism, but the national character of the people living in it. And since the establishment of the state, Zionism has lost its idealist dimension."

The three sounded off in the December issue of a Hebrew mini-magazine launched a year by Ze'ev W. Falk, Professor of Family Law at the Hebrew University, called *Si'ah Mesharim* (Straight Talk). Its purpose: "Discussion, on a pluralistic basis, of the needs of the hour from the aspect of eternity."

Each issue is devoted to a single subject, e.g., the Ethiopian olim and the Chief Rabbinate. Women's status in Judaism. Territory vs. peace. Judaism and democracy. Judaism and racism.

Other contributors to the Zionism and aliya discussion in the December issue are Prof. Eliezer Schweid, former aliya *shahak* Emanuel Ben-Na'eh, Kabbala student Ella Rothberg, and Prof. André Neh-

The subject of the November issue was the low Jewish birth rate worldwide, and Rabbi Tuvia Friedman, former president of the (Conservative) Rabbinical Assembly in the U.S., suggested that Jewish communities in the Diaspora subsidize the education of each child in a family after the first.

Other contributors to that issue were Rabbi Shlomo Aviner, head of Yeshivat Ateret Cohanim; Chava Cohen, a midwife active in Efrat; The Right to Live; and Prof. Shimon Glick, of Soroka Hospital.

THEIR GENERAL agreement on the gravity of the problem and on possible solutions evoked a protest from Deborah Weissman, an Orthodox educator and feminist. In a letter in the December issue, she disagreed with the description of the demographic situation as our "problem of problems." A better candidate for that honour might be the quality of life throughout the Jewish world, she said, "and I am not referring only to Jews who assimilate." Falk explains that his request to a leader of the Family Planning Association did not produce an article.

Other contributors to recent issues were Rabbi Mendel Lewittes, Dr. Ze'ev Katz, Prof. Sholem Rosenberg, Rabbi Jonathan Chipman, Prof. Assa Kasher, Prof. Uriel Simon, and Moshe Unna.

A year's subscription costs NIS 12 (abroad, \$12), with the old price of NIS 10 (\$10) in force until January 16. Address: *Si'ah Mesharim*, 10 Harav Berlin, Jerusalem 92303. A.R.

## QUOTE

TOWARD the end of the 19th century, Y.L. Gordon urged us to be Jews in our homes, to be men in the street. We, the children of those who stayed quiet in the 1930s and 1940s, know that there are Jews who depend on our being noisy, who count on us to take to the streets, as Jews. Yet it seems to me that but for a tiny number, all we have accomplished is an inversion of Gordon's maxim: We have become Jews in the street, men and women at home. At home, we watch the same programmes on television, play the same games, eat the same foods. We have become advocates — energetic, passionate advocates — of Judaism, but we have ceased to be its practitioners. More precisely, we presume that the practice of Judaism beings and ends with its advocacy. Our obsession with Jewish survival enables us to believe that our defence and our advocacy are the substance of a Jewish life. We become less a people than a political action committee, defenders of turf rather than truth.

LEONARD FEIN

RRRRRRRIINNNGGGGGGG!!

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FEMINISTS IN ISRAEL may have been keeping a rather low profile during recent years, but a recent seminar at Kibbutz Shetayim proved that they are definitely not dormant.

The seminar, held at the kibbutz's conference centre, brought together over 200 women from feminist groups and organizations all over the country.

One of the organizers of the event, Dina Waik of the Israeli Women's Network, told *The Jerusalem Post* that the event was called a seminar rather than a conference because one of its main aims was to bring the various feminist bodies in the country together to exchange ideas.

Talia Schori, of the Haifa Rape Crisis Centre, emphasized this point in her opening address. "We want to take ideology one step further. We want to create a forum where women start from a basic common ground," she told the audience.

In her speech, Nitza Shapiro-Libai, the prime minister's adviser on women's status, said that feminist organizations had achieved a tremendous amount in the last 15 years towards raising the consciousness of the general public to the issue of feminism, but women now had to make their political power known.

"To date, we have not really utilized our power. Women should be a vote to be wooed, in the same way that the Likud wooed the Sephardi community in the last election," she said.

Dina Waik told her audience that as long as women are oppressed by a

patriarchal value structure, the moral code will not change.

"This will always continue to be a man's world until women make a real contribution to society or are taken more seriously," she said. Women can change their situation by working from within, by creating pressure groups and by raising society's consciousness.

AFTER THE opening speeches, the gathering divided up into four panels to discuss women's rights over their own bodies; the status of women; women's image and social norms; and organization and politics. The coordinator of the latter group was Prof. Galia Golan of the Hebrew University.

Next the women again divided up into workshops. The press was much maligned in the entitled "How to get news coverage" - with many of the participants accusing the press of pure sensationalism when it came to dealing with women's issues, of being smug and of not taking feminism seriously.

Other accusations were information given to the press about feminist events was twisted for the newspapers' own benefit and that women were "merely ignored" when trying to get anything published.

Ariana Melamed, the coordinator of this workshop, told the participants that "when you want to have something specific published, you have to distinguish it from getting support." The worst thing, she pointed out, "is to criticize a journalist for what you think is bad cover-

# Still alive and kicking

Feminism and women's status in politics and the press were among the topics discussed at a recent conference, Orielle Berry reports.



Shapiro-Libai: Feminists have come a long way in the last 15 years, but not in the political sphere. Above, feminists demonstrating in 1979 against strict abortion legislation. (Rahamim Israeli)

age. All movements, including the feminist movement, need publicity. We have to give ourselves legitimacy, therefore we have to use the press."

ANOTHER WORKSHOP dealt with the culture and organization of Israel's lesbian community. The coordinator, Hedva Blumenthal, told the group that here, as in most countries, lesbians are doubly oppressed, first as women, and secondly as a so-called "sexually deviant" group in society. "Feminist organizations cannot really meet the special needs of lesbians," she said, "but they should at least give them moral and financial support."

IN SPEAKING about women's contribution to peace, poet and author Ada Aharoni talked mainly about Hagesher - the Arab and Jewish Women's Group for Peace.

Hagesher, which was established in 1974 and operates mainly in the north, has, in a quiet and unobtrusive way, made valuable advances toward peaceful coexistence and understanding between Arab and Jewish women, Aharoni said.

The movement, which is not associated with any party or organization, has branches in many Arab villages and towns, including Umm el-Fahm and Ushiya. Jewish and Arab women meet once a month in each other's homes.

"Many of the women have suggested bringing their husbands along to the monthly meetings," said Aharoni, "but imagine, as soon as

you had men there, a political argument would erupt."

From some participants came the criticism that it was difficult to have a women's peace organization without any political affiliation. Aharoni replied that it was common enough ground that all the members sought peace, in whatever way.

Speaking on how to deal with pornography and sexist advertising, Dina Blechman, from the Tel Aviv-based organization Women Against Offensive Publicity, told her workshop that there were several ways to counter offensive publicity, but that as there was no law against pornography or sexist advertising in this country, women had to establish their own measures "to get back at the advertisers and those responsible."

Among those she suggested were boycotts, mass mailings and - on a more extreme level - jamming the telephone of an offensive advertiser for 24 hours.

DINA WAIK told *The Post* that, on the whole, she thought the seminar had been successful, "but there has to be a follow-up," she said. "We have to say to ourselves: Where do we go from here? The seminar has rejuvenated the women's movement, but has also revealed a strong need for more women's forums, seminars and meetings."

The event had shown her "the serious lack of connection between grass-roots women's organizations and 'establishment' organizations such as Wizo and Na'amat."

## HASHARON

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MEMORY exercises and drug treatments can, in some cases, arrest a steady decline in, and even restore, the ability to remember, according to Israeli gerontologists.

Dr. Meinhard Tropper, a member of the International Society of Psychogeriatrics, reported last week to the seventh national conference on geriatrics on the case of a top Israeli journalist, whose mind had so deteriorated over three years that he had to be institutionalized. Dr. Tropper and his colleague Dr. Ya'acov Wagner claim that they gave him drug treatment, and exercises to focus the various types of memory (of which there are 18). As a result, they maintain, he was able to return to work and family.

The geriatrics expert warned, however, that a decline in memory can result from a number of causes, including tension, overdoses of drugs, metabolic problems and a breakdown in brain matter as in Alzheimer's disease. Calcification of the blood vessels in the brain is believed to be involved in only about a third of the loss-of-memory cases.

PSYCHOLOGISTS around the country have been in an uproar since one of their colleagues a few weeks ago was required by a religious court to give testimony about a patient who was involved in a divorce suit.

The Israeli Psychologists' Council sent an urgent letter to Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almosino protesting against this violation of the principle that information provided to a psychologist by a patient is strictly privileged. They fear that troubled people will be deterred from seeking help if what they tell a psychologist ends up in a court or other public forum.

According to the Psychologists' Law of 1977, a psychologist may not reveal any information given him by his patient unless it is "necessary to the patient for his treatment," or if he is "required by law to reveal it." Thus the legal responsibility to testify supersedes the right of privileged information.

Minister Arbeli-Almosino responded that she will soon consult

## Memorable treatment

### THE HEALTH SCAN

Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

with Attorney-General Yosef Harish on the matter, and that she supports the council's demand for clear rules on the problem.

BETWEEN ONE and three per cent of Israel Defence Forces soldiers are bedwetters when they join the army, but most of them stop by the time they are released. The latest issue of the Israeli Medical Association's *Harufim* reports on research into the problem by army doctors. Bedwetting, or enuresis at night, is usually considered a problem of young children just out of diapers. But according to experts, up to 3 per cent of people under the age of 18 suffer from it.

Most of the soldiers in the study said they had either been too embarrassed about bedwetting to seek help, or else they felt there was no treatment at all. According to the *Harufim* article, the IDF is the only Western army to draft bedwetters, and thus has much experience in treating them. The problem is to identify them, but some soldiers wanting special treatment falsely claim that they are bedwetters.

A GROWING number of rabbis say it is against Jewish law to smoke, because of the danger it poses to health. Now, a Moslem religious leader and a Christian Coptic church leader in Egypt say smoking is

against their religious law as well. A seminar on "Medicine, Islamic Law and Tobacco" was held recently in Cairo, in which Mufti Mohammed Sa'id Tantawi and Monseigneur Gregorius warned about the dangers of smoking.

Basing themselves on authoritative reports from the U.S. and Europe on the health dangers of smoking, the two clergymen recommended that doctors stop smoking to set a good example. There is a campaign now in Egypt to prohibit cigarette advertisements, even though most cigarette companies in that country are owned by the state.

THE ANCIENT disease of leprosy could be a thing of the past within a decade, according to the World Health Organization, which has just introduced the first-ever anti-leprosy vaccine.

The vaccine was unveiled in Geneva's WHO headquarters, when an 87-year-old Japanese philanthropist, Ryoichi Sasaki, announced a \$4-million contribution to the WHO's anti-leprosy programme and rolled up his sleeve for a shot.

The vaccine was developed by scientists from Britain, Norway, the U.S. and Venezuela over the past three decades, and is being made by the WHO by Wellcome Research Laboratories in Britain. It will soon be tested in Venezuela and Malawi.

The WHO believes that it might not only stop non-sufferers from getting leprosy, but also arrest the disease in those who already suffer from it.

AN AVERAGE of 40 new cases of thalassemia, a genetically-carried disease usually affecting people of

Mediterranean origin, is discovered every month at Kupat Holim Clalit hospitals in the north. According to the health fund, this is a very large number, but the phenomenon is apparently connected to the large number of Oriental Jews and Arabs in the area. The labs at Ahula Hospital have for several years had a screening programme to identify the sufferers and carriers.

Thalassemia major, the more severe version of the disease, can require many transfusions and long periods of hospitalization. Thalassemia minor, which mainly affects children, gets even worse if iron is administered. Thus, babies with the disease must be closely identified. Now, the health fund in the north has started a programme to test all pregnant women in the area for thalassemia genes.

OPTOMETRISTS now believe that working for hours on end at a computer screen does not have to result in damage to the sight.

At a seminar recently on the influence of computer work on eyesight, lecturers said that radiation from the screen does not affect eyesight (they didn't get into the effect on fetuses in pregnant women). However, if the lighting is not suitable, and the person is seated at the wrong distance or height from the screen, he can develop eyesight problems. The optometrists advise a sight checkup for those computer workers who feel pain around the eyes, fuzziness, burning sensations, tired eyes, tearing and heavy eyelids.

FOR THE first time an Israeli has been chosen to be a member of the executive council of the World Medical Association. The association represents some 500,000 physicians in 43 countries. Dr. Ram Ishai, head of the Israel Medical Association, was just chosen the "Asian representative" on the board of 12.

The next meeting, scheduled for May 1988, will be held for the first time in Israel. The World Medical Association is a voluntary body that adopts positions regarding doctors' professional status and working conditions.

March 1982 with a \$10,800 grant from the Canadian International Development Agency. It has received no other aid, since.

Berlin has become something of a legend among the large foreign aid community in the Bangladesh capital which disburses and administers nearly two billion dollars a year.

The programme, which provides transport allowance, meals, subsidized health care for workers and daycare for about 100 of their children, has rapidly grown, so that today 200 women are employed stitching tapestries which detail village scenes, religious processions, animals, legends and the like.

THE TAPESTRY destined for Pope John Paul, designed by 24-year-old Rubina Akher, is an amalgam of traditional and modern scenes from Bangladesh life.

The tapestries are on show at the programme's headquarters and in Dacca's five-star Sonargang Hotel. Others are on display at Canada's Royal Ontario Museum. (Reuters)

## Ancient work, new life

John Battenfeld/Dacca

portions of food.

The women are now paid 235 to 250 taka (about \$7.10 to \$7.60) for each completed square foot of work - a task that takes about 10 days of careful labour, making tiny stitches on a pattern traced on silk.

The pieces range in size from one square foot designs to some as large as three-by-five feet. But, prices for a piece in the market go as high as \$400. Each design is limited to 250 copies, each tapestry signed by the artisan. At the end of last year, the tapestry-makers shared a 500,000 taka (\$15,000) surplus from sales of about 60 pieces a month.

The art of *Nakshi Kantha* (which means "embroidered quilt") had

been practiced by generations of Bengali women but was falling into disuse when Maureen Berlin, the affable wife of a Canadian diplomat, arrived in Bangladesh in 1980.

"I had the idea before I came here that I wanted to do something with women," Berlin said at the project's centre in Central Dacca.

AT FIRST she was involved in organizing a project of making jute crafts. But in 1981 she began working with two destitute women and a local artist on the tapestries.

"I knew we had something when two Japanese came by one day and offered \$1,000 for some of our work," Berlin said.

The programme formally began in

A CANADIAN welfare worker has revived the ancient tapestry-making art in Bangladesh and provided new life for 200 destitute women in one of the world's poorest countries.

The intricate *Nakshi Kantha* tapestries from developmental skill workshops for underprivileged women are today prized by collectors and museums.

The colourful, finely-detailed works even hang in Britain's Windsor Castle - Queen Elizabeth was so enchanted when she was presented with one during a 1983 visit that she privately purchased two more.

Tapestries have also been presented to Britain's Princess Anne and other distinguished visitors to this nation of 100 million people.

Others will soon find their way to the United Nations and the Vatican as gifts of Bangladesh's President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

The beautiful, silken tapestries are made by women who, before joining the programme, had little or no means of support outside of begging or menial labour for meagre

## 'A vision of hell'

Kevin Marron/Hamilton

statements to what they believe is the most rigorous analysis of such material ever undertaken. They have concluded that the children's stories were so detailed and consistent, and accompanied by such clear symptoms of trauma, that there is no rational explanation other than the girls were describing things they actually experienced.

But police considered the girls' bizarre stories "beyond belief" and, after an investigation which the child abuse specialists claim was lax and haphazard, concluded that there is no evidence to support the allegations.

Tensions are escalating around the case between police and social agencies, each representing a profoundly different philosophical

approach to the credibility of children and the seriousness with which their allegations should be treated.

During the last few years, similar incidents, in which children claimed to have been involved in violent satanic cult rituals, have been reported in several parts of the United States. In all these cases, police either failed to find evidence, or were unable to produce the kind of evidence that would result in a criminal conviction.

WHAT makes the Hamilton case significant is that it is not a criminal trial, but a hearing under the Ontario Child Welfare Act into an application to make the children wards of the crown. This enables the court to examine hearsay evidence, in the

form of second-hand accounts of what has been said by children, too young to testify, and then consider expert analysis of this material.

The children's parents have denied all the allegations against them, and are seeking to regain custody of the girls, who are now in foster care. Lawyers representing the parents have been lamenting the fact that expert opinions based on hearsay evidence have forced them into a contest of courtroom shadow boxing.

(London Observer Service)

CORRECTION: On last Sunday's Today page in the article entitled "Presenting a challenge," the term *agnos* should have been defined as a deceased wife or wife whose husband's death cannot be established, and is therefore not free to remarry. The photo caption above the article on the left should have read "workshop on the exemption of the mitza of procreation for women."

Today is edited by Amy Levinson.

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# Privatization drive begins here

A 17 per cent stake in the Jerusalem Economic Corp. — a consistent money maker — will be sold on the stock exchange this month

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

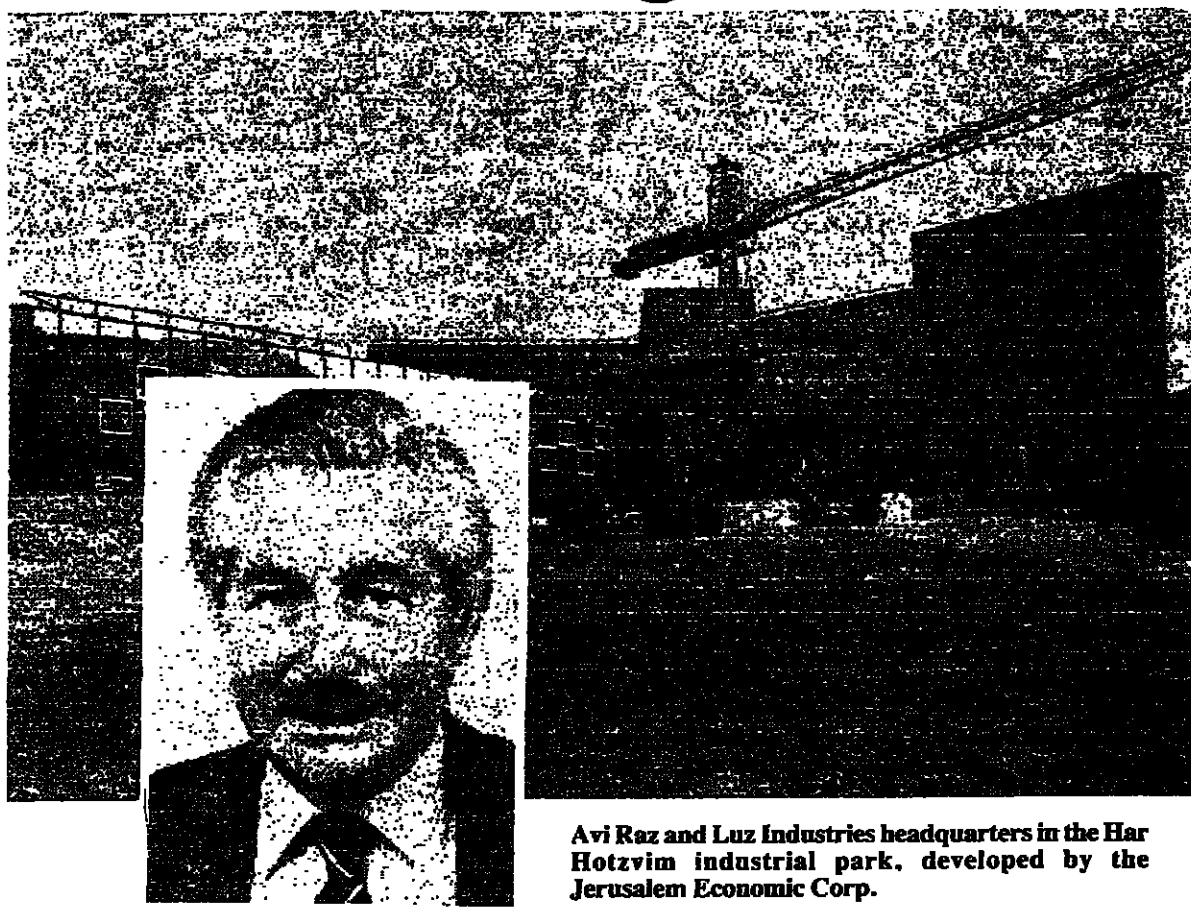
TEL AVIV. — Even while the economic programme is being banded about the cabinet, the government has already begun to implement a key portion of the package: the selling off of state-owned companies as part of a larger effort to reduce its role in the market.

Spearheading the privatization of some 100 state-owned enterprises is the Jerusalem Economic Corp. (JEC), a profitable company that develops properties in the capital for industrial use.

In the first phase, the government will sell 17 per cent of its stake, valued at \$8.8 million, in shares and options, on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange at the end of this month. The original plan was to sell 30 per cent of the shares, but underwriters, Bank Leumi, Israel Discount Bank and Bank Hapoalim said the equity market would not be able to handle \$10m. in shares and an equal amount in options all at once.

JEC Chairman Avi Raz told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that the privatization of his company marks the opening of a new economic era that promises to help increase the profitability of corporations now under state control.

He noted that in the U.S., state-owned companies are rare, although they are more common in Western Europe. But no matter where they are, they are more often than not subject to political interference and operate far less efficiently than their private-sector counterpart. "Business is not for government officials," Raz said, citing Beit Shemesh Engines as an example of a company that lost its competitiveness and began making losses after it was taken over by the government. "Let's face it, it's different when you work with



Avi Raz and Luz Industries headquarters in the Har Hotzvim industrial park, developed by the Jerusalem Economic Corp.

your own money than with public funds."

The sale of JEC and other state enterprises will benefit the government in two ways, Raz said. The increased profitability coming with private ownership will mean the state will earn more on the minority stakes it will continue to hold and will earn money on a one-time basis for the majority stake it sells.

Nonetheless, the privatization drive, which should have got underway a long time ago, is encountering the staunch opposition of ministers. Many use state enterprises as a ready source of well-paying jobs for political allies and family members; they are a source of immense political power.

Raz is strongly optimistic that privatization can turn a lot of companies around. He contends that El Al would immediately become profitable, as would other large govern-

ment corporations such as Shikun Uftuch, if they were denationalized. If the Lavi jet project had been undertaken by the private sector, it would not have been launched in the first place and huge sums of money would have been saved, Raz says.

The JEC, 99.8 per cent of whose shares are government-owned, had a net profit of NIS 1.14 m. during the first half of 1986. In the past few years it has been paying the Finance Ministry one million dollars in dividends annually.

Founded 40 years ago to create an industrial infrastructure for Jerusalem at the end of the British Mandate, the company has grown steadily. But it wasn't until 1967 and the unification of Jerusalem, that business really boomed. Until then, JEC had built 60,000 square metres of industrial space. In the 19½ years since, it has constructed more than half a million square metres.

Its consistent profitability made it an ideal candidate to be privatized. The denationalization of other companies to a large extent hinges on the success of the JEC share issue.

Raz's modern conception of industry is reflected in the day care centres he introduced into his industrial complexes, as a means of encouraging women to go to work. So far he has built two day care centres, in Har Hotzvim, near Ramot, and in Mishor Edumim. A third is planned for Atarot.

Another innovation planned by Raz is a medical clinic inside the work area, a practice common in Denmark, where it has greatly reduced sick leaves from work. Raz intends to open such a clinic in a new multi-purpose structure he is building in the Har Hotzvim industrial area. The building will also include a bank, a post office and other services for the area's workers.

## Wang users are up in arms

By SIMON LOUISON

For the Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. — A group of Wang computer equipment users are threatening to sue U.S.-based Wang Inc. and its Israeli agent Dror Computer Systems Ltd. for negligence and breach of warranty.

An informal gathering of Wang equipment users was called together earlier this week because of dissatisfaction with the service provided in this country and the failure of the parent company to take remedial action.

If the group, which includes a number of major Israeli companies such as Bank Leumi, Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd., Tadiran and at least one Tadiran municipality, fails to get an immediate satisfactory response from Wang, it will take legal action.

A spokesman for the user group, Amnon Rafael, of the legal firm Rafael and Efrati, said it was im-

possible to get spare parts for Wangs in Israel, and the local agent, Dror, had failed to honour service contracts. Even such items as ribbons for printers were not available, he said. His firm and a number of others had seen their equipment go down for days on end with nothing they could do about it.

Wang attempted to penetrate the Israeli office equipment market about four years ago. It experienced some difficulties finding a suitable local agent but eventually an agreement was signed with Dror, a subsidiary of Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd., owned by the Shoken family.

Rafael said the company has sold over \$4 million of equipment in Israel. He said the equipment was at the top of the market range, but his company purchased it because of the high-level capability promised. However, Dror experienced difficulty translating the software into Heb-

rew and even the English-language software failed to live up to expectations.

Rafael said the relationship between Wang and Dror deteriorated as complaints from users increased. But Wang failed to address the problems either. The situation at one point got so desperate that users attempted to import spare parts directly, but Wang stuck to its policy of selling its parts to authorized installers — in this case, Dror.

Rafael said it was the first time he ever saw a major American company walk away from its responsibilities and commitments.

Rafael and Efrati is about to junk its \$100,000 worth of equipment, selling it to other Wang users so that it can be cannibalized for spare parts. Other users have been forced to take similar action.

Dror Managing Director Racheli Edelman had no comment on the complaints.

## Business booms in Afghan war

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AFP). — The war in Afghanistan has brought a flourishing trade in all kinds of commodities, from arms and opium to Red Cross relief supplies and carpets.

There has been a marked increase in arms dealing, common in the region for centuries, directly linked to the war. The Pakistani government has expressed concern at the proliferation in its provinces of Kalashnikov assault rifles, either Soviet or Chinese or locally manufactured.

According to an Afghan expert living in the border town of Peshawar, the suppliers are often Moslem guerrillas, who have come from Afghanistan and are in need of cash for their families or sell unwanted weapons to raise cash to buy other arms. Or they may be dealers who have been waiting a long time for a delivery and sell part of it to cover their expenses.

In the past, the Soviet-Afghan army has made mass purchases on the open market in an attempt to force up prices and reduce availability.

As well as weapons, there is a big trade in parkas, sleeping bags and socks stamped with the Red Cross or Red Crescent, which are sold cheaply on the bazaars.

But the most lucrative trade of all is in opium. Afghanistan produced about 600 tons of opium last year, according to Western experts. The two leading provinces in poppy cultivation are Nangarhar and Kunar, both in the east of the country, near the border with Pakistan.

The cultivation of the opium poppy is not new. But before 1973 it only accounted for 20 per cent of the

arable land, and the crop was sold to Iranian traders. Today it is estimated that between 70 and 80 per cent of cultivated land is planted with poppy.

A sir (about seven kilos) fetches 80,000 afghanis, \$1,600 at the official rate, \$590 at the exchange given in Pakistan in the tribal zones along the border, where makeshift laboratories transform it into heroin of the highest purity.

According to the inhabitants in the region, the same area of land sown with cereals would earn only 16,000 afghanis, compared with 240,000 afghanis if it was planted with poppy. Between 30 and 80 per cent of the

inhabitants in the region have fled. But the fields continue to be planted, particularly by guerrillas, who then share the proceeds half and half with the owner, who often lives in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar.

The past two years of shelling and fighting have damaged the crop, but local farmers are optimistic because Soviet-Afghan planes now avoid the region — because of the guerrillas' improved anti-aircraft batteries.

Drug smugglers also use Kabul and Moscow. In November the Soviet media reported a seizure of 1.2 tons of hashish hidden in a sack of raisins in Moscow and, in December, 507 kilos of hash were seized in Kabul.



Two Afghan guerrillas with unexploded Soviet-made bombs they plan to dismantle and resell for their explosive material. The war in Afghanistan has spurred a big business in drugs and weapons along the Pakistan frontier. (Camera Press)

## WORLD BUSINESS IN BRIEF

### Dollar recovers from declines of holiday period

LONDON (AP). — The dollar rose sharply yesterday against all key European currencies, partly boosted by the West German Central Bank's intervention on the open dollar market, dealers said.

Foreign exchange dealers said they had expected a technical rebound by the dollar to compensate for its recent fall. It had entered the new year at six-year lows against the Deutschmark and Swiss franc and around five-year lows against the Dutch guilder and French franc.

Dealers in Frankfurt said the West German Bundesbank's intervention on the dollar market, its first since mid-October, helped to stabilize the American currency at higher levels.

The dollar made ground against the British pound after falling for nine straight market days. It cost \$1.4725 to buy one pound sterling, cheaper than \$1.4925 Friday.

SEVEN OPEC MEMBERS, and perhaps more, have notified clients of the new, increased prices they will be charging as of February 1. *The Middle East Economic Survey* reported yesterday.

The respected economic weekly, published in Nicosia, said those countries were Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Nigeria and Algeria. Oman, though it is not a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, has told its customers to be prepared to renegotiate contracts along Opec lines.

Opec members agreed in Geneva last month to set new, fixed prices of around \$18 a barrel.

A KEY FRENCH INTEREST rate was raised by the Bank of France

yesterday, following a recent decline of the franc against the Deutschmark on foreign exchange markets.

A central bank spokesman said the seven-day repurchase rate was being increased by half a percentage point to 8.75 per cent from 8.25 per cent.

The move followed the bank's decision on Friday to raise its money market intervention rate to 8 per cent from 7.25 per cent in a bid to defend the French currency after its fifth consecutive record low fix against the mark of 3.312 francs.

(New York closing appears page 9.)

U.S. BANK FAILURES set a post-depression record in 1986 when 138 institutions collapsed, federal regulators said yesterday, with most of the failed institutions in economically troubled oil and farm states.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) said it considered nearly one of every 10 banks nationwide to be in some kind of financial trouble.

The agency said that as of mid-December, 1,484 banks were on its list of troubled institutions needing special monitoring out of the 14,948 banks whose deposits are insured by the FDIC.

The majority of U.S. banks are affiliated with the FDIC. During 1986, Texas had 26 bank

failures, the most of any state, followed by 16 in Oklahoma, 14 in Kansas, 10 in Iowa and nine in Missouri.

During the Great Depression, bank failures averaged 2,277 a year.

PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK said yesterday he was not satisfied with President Reagan's suggestions to ease the burden of Egypt's \$4.5 billion in military debts to the U.S.

"I have received an answer, but part of the answer is positive, and part of it I do not like," Mubarak told reporters.

Government sources said, however, that Mubarak's reply was "basically no." They said the Egyptian president asked Reagan to come up with a better offer.

The American proposal would let Egypt refinance loans at 7.4 per cent, a sharp reduction from the original rates of 11 to 13 per cent charged in the 1970s.

BRITAIN'S CURRENCY RESERVES fell by \$83 million in December to \$21.923 billion, the Treasury said yesterday.

Had extraordinary items connected with debt servicing not reduced the total by a net \$179m, reserves would have risen \$96m.

In November the reserves fell by \$35m, after declining by \$668m in October, \$372m in September, 141 in August and \$41m in July.

### SAS to expand Denmark-Israel route

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN  
Scandinavian Airlines Systems (SAS) is increasing the number of flights between Israel and Copenhagen next spring to four a week, following a sharp increase in business on the route last year, SAS Israel Manager Nathan Wagner said last week.

Wagner spoke at the inauguration of the company's new offices in Tel Aviv's Migdalor Building.

While SAS saw the number of passengers on the route grow 30 per

cent to 37,000 last year, the route's profitability was hurt by the lower value of the dollar, hence the shekel, against Scandinavian currencies and the high cost of using Ben-Gurion Airport, Wagner said. As a result the airline is giving up the DC 8s and DC 10s for 135-seat DC 9 airplanes at the end of the year, with the aim of cutting costs.

By 1988, SAS hopes to operate four to five weekly flights to Israel in summer and three weekly flights during the winter.

## CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 Possibly well-meaning officials at the employment centre (4,10)
- 9 Having a fixation. Bess does wrong (8)
- 10 Royal burgh that gives a name to foreign coinage (5)
- 12 Colourful note on some old-fashioned advice (4)
- 13 Whale with a penchant for the bouquet (10)
- 15 To cut back is tough on the fish (8)
- 16 They happen to English openers (6)
- 18 Getting up river I make notes (6)
- 20 Man of letters out casing the joint for a composer (8)
- 23 Ferment aroused by excited easy-sin set (10)
- 24 He entertains a lot (4)
- 26 A party member I find an excuse for (5)
- 27 Paradise so long as they have no teeth (8)
- 28 Go, allot more ice, weatherwise (14)

### DOWN

- 2 Braggart captain little Robert laid out... (7)
- 3... and how the ship's company enjoyed it! (4)
- 4 She overcomes our ego in this state (8)
- 5 Singular thing—strange it is found on the Wye when we depart (6)
- 6 Vexatious person failing to produce dainty china (3,7)
- 7 The jay-walker maybe in poor health (3,4)
- 8 Where we'll be in the days of petticoat rule? (11)
- 11 Soames Forsyte behind the scenes (8,3)
- 14 Have second thoughts (5,5)
- 17 Ill-timed tenure of the wicked fairy? (3,5)
- 19 Disease-dispelling location (7)
- 21 Knowing about costing (7)
- 22 Create goodwill by being close to the listener (6)
- 25 Party women never join (4)

### SCRIBBLE PAD

#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Bride, 4 Sweet, 8 Talon, 9 Collier, 10 Lactate, 11 Hell, 12 Web, 14 Stud, 15 Acts, 18 Sou, 21 Alas, 23 Tombola, 25 Receive, 26 Ranch, 27 Waist, 28 Sleepy. DOWN: 1 Bottle, 2 Illicit, 3 Lanyards, 4 Silk, 5 Elite, 6 Turtle, 7 Screw, 13 Balmoral, 16 Trousers, 17 Barrow, 19 Usher, 20 Cathy, 22 Ascii, 24 List.

#### QUICK SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Bride, 4 Sweet, 8 Talon, 9 Collier, 10 Lactate, 11 Hell, 12 Web, 14 Stud, 15 Acts, 18 Sou, 21 Alas, 23 Tombola, 25 Receive, 26 Ranch, 27 Waist, 28 Sleepy. DOWN: 1 Bottle, 2 Illicit, 3 Lanyards, 4 Silk, 5 Elite, 6 Turtle, 7 Screw, 13 Balmoral, 16 Trousers, 17 Barrow, 19 Usher, 20 Cathy, 22 Ascii, 24 List.

#### QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Colliding, 7 South African settlers, 8 Realities (anag.), 9 Lubricate, 10 Lose colour, 11 Come back, 13 Abstract, 14 Shrewd, 17 Chalkpit, 18 Dutch cheese, 20 Antelope, 22 Riddle, 23 Care for, 24 Emotional piece of music.
- DOWN: 1 Most important, 2 Shorten, 3 Part of the foot, 4 Sounds, 5 Wading-bird, 6 Set apart, 7 Legacy, 12 Money matters, 13 Offspring, 15 Endure, 16 Bough, 17 Liquid measure, 19 Embalmed body, 21 Bargain.

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## THE JERUSALEM POST HANUKKA TOY FUND



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Notice is hereby given that the 33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 1987, at 9.00 a.m., at the Company's office, 14 Hillel Street, Jerusalem.

### AGENDA:

1. To approve the financial reports of the Company as of June 30, 1986, and the Directors' Report.
2. To elect directors.
3. To appoint auditors and fix their fees.
4. To consider any other business that may be transacted at an Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Board

(-)

D.L. Shenbari, Advocate

Company Secretary



## MARKET PLACE

PINHAS LANDAU

## The spirit of Bejski

A few months ago, it was fashionable to say that the Bejski report had been strangled quietly to death. Bejski had been fobbed off with the sacrifice of a few individuals at the head of the big banks. It was said, but his demand that the banks reform themselves and that the government institutions implicated in the bank share scandal either shape up or get out of the capital market were just "Utopian pie in the sky."

The people who made the wrong assessment did so because they did not, at any stage of the proceedings, understand that the basic issue of the "regulation" and the main theme of the Bejski report, was the accountability of the bank bosses. The difference between the Ardors and Mandelbaums, on the one hand, and the Japhets and Recanatis, on the other, was that the former were too scared to do anything, good or bad, while the latter did what the hell they pleased without asking anyone else's permission. Both Bejski and the general public decided that arrogance was a greater sin than cowardice, hence the different verdicts.

The rest is commentary. Although difficult to grasp, and even more difficult to apply, the concept that everyone was answerable to someone gradually took root, and not only in the business world, as the Shin Bet affair indicated.

But the board of Bank Leumi is a Bourbon institution, par excellence. They learnt nothing and forgot nothing. They failed to grasp that the existence of the board itself was gradually entering the public consciousness and that membership of this elite group was no longer a plum that their old pal Ernest dished out to select buddies, but that it actually carried responsibilities.

Leumi's "Governor" is the septuagenarian Jewish chairman, Arye Dulziza. He has no say in management, has no vote on the board and is - needless to say - responsible to no one, in Israel or abroad. He does what he likes to an extent that even Japhet would have envied. Now he says he will look into what has become the severance pay package scandal at Bank Leumi. Harrah!

Bejski and his mates delved deeply into the corporate psyche of the big banks in their investigation. They must surely have been struck by the validity of Lord Acton's dictum about the corrupting influence of power. They discovered that the heads of the banks wielded absolute power in their fiefs - not in the business sense, where they were hemmed in on all sides by the government, but in the personal and organizational sense. It was not his fault. As he once told this reporter, with respect to the "regulation" of the bank shares: "I had two partners in that business. One died (Daniel Kocanati) and one committed suicide (Yankov Levinson). I have no desire to follow either of them." So he hung on, until his erstwhile colleagues, the hitherto compliant bunch of fawning yes-men with whom he had stuffed his board, pushed him out stage by stage, gliding the pill with several million dollars' worth of platinum handshakes. After all that had occurred he wasn't going to refuse that gesture.

Bejski said it all in the report, which now lies gathering dust on numerous shelves, but suggesting to itself just the same. The people who thought that the damage could be contained in the run-up to the inquiry, like those who believed the inquiry itself could be side-tracked, and those who were convinced that a few ceremonial victims were all that was needed after the report was published, were all quite wrong. Bejski didn't open Pandora's box - that was done in October 1983 - he merely turned on the fan and the muck has been flying ever since.

So much has happened in and to the banks in the nine months since Bejski-day. All the other boards have been turned inside out - by Kessar, by the Bank of Israel, by some "higher authority." Only at Leumi nothing has changed. They are not repentant, nor could they be. They haven't yet understood that they were guilty of something.

Quarterly rise due partly to weak dollar  
Foreign debt grows by \$480m.

By AVI TEMKIN

Post Economic Reporter  
Israel's foreign debt rose in the third quarter of 1986 by some \$480 million, to some \$24.4 billion, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday.

But figures published by the central bank showed that some \$220m. from the increase in the debt stemmed from the higher dollar value of debts in European currencies.

The figures also showed that the foreign currency deposits by non-residents (patash accounts) rose by some \$215m. in the third quarter of the year, explaining a large part of the increase in the foreign debt. It

was the largest increase in such accounts since the end of 1983.

The central bank also reported that in the last quarter of 1986 repayments of principal and interest of foreign debts totalled \$1.2b. It forecast that in 1987 repayment of foreign debts would total \$4.2b., including interest. This sum includes the \$300m. Israel has asked the U.S. to cut from the interest payments on its long-term obligations.

Other figures released yesterday by the central bank showed that the private-sector receipts of foreign currency exceeded its spending abroad by some \$350m.

The central bank's figures showed

revenues from foreign tourists came to \$243m., compared with \$204m. in the same period of 1985. The bank said the increase reflected greater willingness by tourists to exchange their foreign currency at commercial banks as opposed to the black market. It did not indicate an increase in tourism.

Israelis travelling abroad bought some \$117m. in foreign currency from the banks for their trips. But, the bank noted, the figure was considerably lower than the average amount Israelis spent while travelling, which indicated that they were using "under the mattress" dollars to finance these trips.

## European venture may build solar plant here

By BERNARD JOSEPHS

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
Israel is competing with Algeria and Saudi Arabia to be the site of a giant solar energy project being planned by a consortium of European companies, Energy Ministry sources said yesterday.

The consortium are planning to build a solar tower consisting of sun-reflecting mirrors that will produce 30 megawatts of electricity - enough to power hundreds of homes.

The consortium intends to spend \$150 million on the scheme and has yet to choose in which of the three countries it will be built.

However, Energy Ministry sources said yesterday that a representative of the consortium had recently checked conditions in Israel and declared the country to be eminently suitable.

If the project is built here, the consortium will sell the electricity to the Israel Electric Corp.

## Petrol stations may get enriched benzene

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
HAIFA - A new methanol-enriched benzene may be available at petrol stations as early as June 1987 upon approval of the ministries of Energy and Transportation, Dor Chemicals Ltd. chairman Shmuel Dankner said Sunday.

Dankner said he expected confirmation this month following the largest consumer test ever carried out in Israel.

The new fuel would increase an automobile's mileage by 5 per cent and improve environmental quality as it reduces the emission of carbon monoxide, lead and unburned benzene. In addition, it improves engine performance due to its superior combustion quality.

With the company's general manager, Yossi Antverg, and methanol fuel project manager, Shimon Borik, Dankner unveiled the final report by experts from the Technion's Energy Engineering Centre, recommending a 3 per cent methanol addition to all benzene sold in Israel.

During the past year, the experts carried out a market test at three fuel stations in Haifa, Holon and Jerusalem. Sales at the three stations rose 40 per cent during the market study.

If the government's confirmation is received as they expect, all stations in the north drawing their benzene from the Haifa terminal will be selling the new fuel exclusively, both in 91 and 96 octane versions by June and the rest of the country by September.

Dor will pay for the cleaning of the tanks and the installation of the mixing machinery in the depots.

The company estimated that about 30,000 tons of methanol, made from oil and gas, would be added to the country's benzene, saving 50,000 tons of benzene, at a saving to the country of \$10 million annually.

Dor can produce 65,000 tons of methanol annually, half of which has been sold locally until now to the insecticide, pharmaceutical, plastics and plywood industries. The balance was exported, until the recent collapse of the oil price, when exports dipped.

Now Dor expects to sell the balance to the fuel companies.

## Gur formally named Solel Boneh chairman

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
TEL AVIV - Labour MK and former health minister Mordechai Gur was formally appointed chairman of Solel Boneh yesterday, replacing Moshe Sanbar who resigned last week because of the concern's financial plight.

Gur, who joined the Executive Committee of Hevrat Ha'ovdim, the Histadrut holding company, immediately after the committee's approval of his appointment, said he had examined Solel Boneh's situation thoroughly before taking the post and was convinced it had national and economic justification for its continued operation.

However, Gur said, the company would have to adapt to the difficult state of the building market.

Solel Boneh Director General Ehud Shilo told the committee that 1,500 more workers would have to be dismissed from the company, in addition to the 3,500 already axed, if the company was to recover. Shilo noted that all the optimistic predic-

tions for the building market proved false and therefore more workers had to be discharged.

The fees for compensating outgoing workers will reach \$25 million, a sum Solel Boneh wants to borrow from the government.

As part of the recovery measures already taken by the Histadrut-owned building company, Shilo listed personnel cuts, trimming management and selling assets. Solel Boneh has committed itself to sell another \$110m. worth of properties by the end of the decade, Shilo said, adding that by the end of 1980 the company had already sold properties valued at about the amount.

Hevrat Ha'ovdim Secretary-General Danny Rosolio blasted the "unrestrained assault" by what he implied were Knesset members and ministers who have said the concern was supported by government funds. Rosolio stressed that Solel Boneh was making an unprecedented effort at recovery and did not ask for government handouts, only for a loan.

## Wall Street stocks surge to new highs

NEW YORK (AP) - The stock market soared yesterday in an extension of Friday's strong gains.

In late trading, the Dow Jones Average of leading industrial shares was up 46.4 points at 1973.71, well above the record close of 1955.57 set last December 2.

Advancing shares led declines by 15 to two and trading volume was 141 million shares.

"You had a lot of people selling for profits and then you had a lot of selling for losses and tax deductions in 1986," explained Eldon Grimm, a stock analyst with Birr Wilson and Co. Brokerage house. "Now you get an automatic rebound."

"There's a lot of money accumulated from people who took profits and losses [last year] and that cash is coming back into the market," he said.

In the closing days of 1986, there were many investors who rushed to sell their stocks to take advantage of last year's tax benefits for capital gains as well as those who sold to deduct losses.

Traders said yesterday's strong market performance also reflected a healthy bond market, where prices of some 30-year treasury issues ended the day as much as \$7.50 per \$1,000 face amount.

Grimm said the stock market rally was "very very broad. It accompanied all sectors here."

"A lot of blue chips are up strongly," he added.

Jack Baker, a stock analyst for Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc., said many traders returned to the market yesterday after a long holiday respite with a generally positive attitude about prospects for economic growth and lower interest rates in 1987.

In addition, he said, the market had a bullish reaction to reports about President Reagan's health. Doctors removed four apparently benign polyps from Reagan's colon over the weekend.

## Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

## MARKET STATISTICS

## Indices:

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| General Share Index | 99.40+0.03%  |
| Non-Bank Index      | 101.12+0.11% |
| Arrangement         | 98.26-0.03%  |
| Insurance           | 99.51-1.15%  |
| Real Estate         | 102.12-0.20% |
| Commerce, Services  | 101.25+0.17% |
| Industrials         | 100.87+0.21% |
| Textiles            | 101.36+0.08% |
| Metals              | 101.28+1.09% |
| Chemicals           | 102.20+0.58% |
| Electronics         | 98.50-0.39%  |
| Industrial Invest.  | 100.85+0.05% |
| Investment Cos.     | 101.08+0.06% |
| General Bond Index  | 100.01-0.10% |
| Index-linked Bonds  | 100.15-0.05% |
| Fully-linked        | 100.00-0.19% |
| Partially-linked    | 100.39+0.05% |
| Dollar-linked Bonds | 99.89-0.38%  |
| Short-term 0-2 yrs  | 100.27+0.07% |
| Medium-term 2-5 yrs | 100.04-0.14% |
| Long-term 5+ yrs    | 99.98-0.15%  |

## Turnovers:

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Shares - total      | NIS 12,951,900 |
| Supernot            | 919            |
| Arrangement         | NIS 2,222,700  |
| Non-bank            | NIS10,728,700  |
| Bonds - total       | NIS 5,054,100  |
| Index-linked        | NIS 3,549,300  |
| Dollar-linked       | NIS 1,504,300  |
| Treasury Bills      | NIS 18,005,500 |
| Share Movements:    |                |
| Advances            | 128 (195)      |
| of which 5%+        | 23 (42)        |
| "buyers only"       | 0 (6)          |
| Declines            | 128 (89)       |
| of which 5%+        | 25 (20)        |
| "sellers only"      | 1 (1)          |
| Unchanged           | 128 (103)      |
| Trading Hall        | 33 (50)        |
| Bond Market Trends: |                |
| Index-linked:       |                |
| 3% fully-linked     | Mixed to 1%    |

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 4.25% fully-linked  | Mixed to 1%   |
| 80% linked          | Stable        |
| Double-linked       | Mixed to 2%   |
| Dollar-linked:      |               |
| Admon               | Mixed to 1%   |
| Rimon               | Falls to 1.5% |
| Gilboa              | Falls to 2%   |
| For. Curr.          | Rises to 2%   |
| denominated         | Falls to 1%   |
| Treasury Bills      |               |
| (annual yield)      | 21.35-21.8%   |
| Arrangement yields: |               |
| IDB ord.            | 15.18%        |
| Am. Int. 0.1        | 15.20%        |
| Discount A          | 15.02%        |
| Mizrahi r.          | 15.04%        |
| Hapoelim r.         | 15.19%        |
| General A           | 15.16%        |
| Leumi stock         | 15.23%        |
| Fin. Trade 1        | 15.48%        |

## SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

| Name   | Price      | Volume | %               |
|--|------------|--------|-----------------|
|  |            |        | 100/1015 change |
| <b>Commercial Banks</b>                      |            |        |                 |
| (not part of "arrangement")                  |            |        |                 |
| Maritime                                     | 1325       | 7455   | +3.5            |
| General non-arr.                             | 21600      | 62     | -2.7            |
| First Int'l                                  | 3653       | 2789   | +1.2            |
| FIBI   | 4890       | 3115   | -1.3            |
| <b>Commercial Banks</b>                      |            |        |                 |
| (part of "arrangement")                      |            |        |                 |
| IDB  | 82750      | 317    | +0.1            |
| Union 0.1                                    | 61540      | 314    | +0.2            |
| Discount                                     | 105760     | 210    | -               |
| Mizrahi                                      | 54120      | 277    | -               |
| Hapoelim r.                                  | 56200      | 850    | -               |
| General A                                    | 143700     | 49     | +1.0            |
| Leumi 0.1                                    | 35890      | 1476   | -               |
| Fin. Trade                                   | 47150      | -      | +0.3            |
| <b>Mortgage Banks</b>                        |            |        |                 |
| Leumi Mort. r.                               | 7250       | 169    | -               |
| Dev. Mort.                                   | 2535       | 510    | +1.4            |
| Mishkan r.                                   | 2650       | 496    | +2.7            |
| Tafelher r.                                  | 15870      | 188    | -               |
| Merviv                                       | 6370       | 79     | -3.8            |
| <b>Financial Institutions</b>                |            |        |                 |
| Agri. C. DD                                  | no trading |        |                 |
| Ind. Dev. DD                                 | no trading |        |                 |
| Clal Lending 0.1                             | 18399      | 145    | +10.0           |
| <b>Insurance</b>                             |            |        |                 |
| Ararat 0.1                                   | 1390       | 316    | -7.3            |
| Hapoelim r.                                  | 333        | 2070   | -2.1            |
| Phoenix 0.1                                  | 805        | 5190   | +0.6            |
| Hapoelim r.                                  | 6870       | -      | -               |
| Menoreh 1                                    | 2100       | 140    | +0.7            |
| Sahar  | 53200      | 145    | -2.2            |
| Shin Hold. 1                                 | 3468       | 15     | -1.0            |
| <b>Trade &amp; Services</b>                  |            |        |                 |
| Melir Ezra                                   | 1468       | 3590   | +10.0           |
| Supernot 2                                   | 919        | -      | -               |
| Delek r.                                     | 3715       | 5139   | -               |
| Lighterage                                   | 14200      | 48     | +2.3            |
| Cold Storage                                 | 1649       | 3267   | -               |
| Dan Hotels                                   | 1651       | 160    | +0.1            |
| Yarden Hotel                                 | 2670       | 440    | -8.7            |
| Hilton 1                                     | 24701      | 9      | -               |
| Team 1                                       | 1070       | 2355   | -               |
| <b>Real Estate, Building and Agriculture</b> |            |        |                 |
| Acornim                                      | 871        | 11409  | -               |
| Eilon  | 558        | 11070  | -               |
| Alfa Int. 0.1                                | 36200      | 213    | +0.8            |
| Danloner                                     | 4875       | 802    | +10.0           |
| Prop. & Bldg.                                | 3795       | 2533   | -               |
| Reserve 0.1                                  | 4940       | 322    | +0.4            |
| ILDC r.                                      | 62700      | 189    | -               |
| Rasco r.                                     | 9000       | 62     | -0.2            |
| Mehadrin                                     | 8000       | 168    | -               |
| Hadarim                                      | 1364       | 1033   | -0.1            |
| <b>Industrials</b>                           |            |        |                 |
| Dubek b                                      | 4500       | 2401   | -4.3            |
| Pr-Ze 1                                      | no trading |        |                 |
| Sunfrost                                     | 12200      | 100    | +0.8            |
| Elita  | 17100      | 644    | +4.3            |
| Adgar  | 564        | 4260   | -1.1            |
| Argaman r.                                   | 17730      | 103    | -1.5            |
| Delta G 1                                    | 3190       | 1634   | +4.4            |
| Maquetta 1                                   | 5280       | 430    | -               |
| Eagle 1                                      | 16390      | 397    | +6.4            |
| Polgar                                       | 3650       | 893    | +1.7            |
| Schoellerline                                | 13770      | 77     | -10.0           |
| Regosin                                      | 2450       | 905    | -7.5            |
| Urden 0.1 r.                                 | 6900       | 344    | -               |
| Is. Can. Co. 1                               | 2974       | 2976   | -               |
| Is. Can. Co.                                 | 2234       | 378    | -               |
| Packer Steel                                 | 13570      | 328    | +2.4            |
| Elbit  | 35600      | 10     | +1.9            |
| <b>Investment Companies</b>                  |            |        |                 |
| IDB Dev. r.                                  | 5300       | 1681   | -               |
| Elern  | 3798       | 1370   | -0.1            |
| Gahelot                                      | 1355       | 502    | +0.4            |
| Israel Corp. 1                               | 12730      | 682    | +1.8            |
| Wolfson 1 r.                                 | 113000     | -      | -               |
| Hapoelim Inv.                                | 6840       | 2452   | -               |
| Discount Invest.                             | 5225       | 4943   | -               |
| Mizrahi Invest.                              | 22000      | 36     | -2.7            |
| Clal 10                                      | 951        | 11147  | -               |
| Landeco 0.1                                  | 3680       | 37     | -7.1            |
| Pama 0.1                                     | 10500      | 84     | -4.5            |
| <b>Oil Exploration</b>                       |            |        |                 |
| Paz Oil Expl.                                | 22160      | 225    | +4.7            |
| J.O.E.L.                                     | 4200       | 179    | -               |

Abbreviations:  
s.o. sellers only  
b.o. buyers only  
b bearer  
r registered

## FINANCIAL DATA: ISRAEL, EUROPE, U.S.

## ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

**Shekel Interest Rates**  
PRIME BORROWING RATE: 1.58% per month  
Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

|             | Last Updated | Tapas    | Pakam 7-Day | Pakam 30-Day |
|-------------|--------------|----------|-------------|--------------|
| LEUMI       | 5.1          | 8.17.78% | 8-16.50%    | 12-20.25%    |
| HAPOALIM    | 15.12        | 8-16.00% | 8-16.50%    | 12-18.75%    |
| DISCOUNT    | 17.12        | 7-16.00% | 8-16.20%    | 14-18.50%    |
| MIZRAHI     | 1.12         | 8-17%    | 6-17.50%    | 6-19.50%     |
| FIRST INT'L | 11.11        | 10-16%   | 11-17.20%   | 13-19.50%    |

Rates vary according to size of deposit.  
(Tapas: demand deposit paying daily interest.  
Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

## PATAH - FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (January 5)

|                     | MINIMUM DEP | 3-MONTHS | 6-MONTHS | 12-MONTHS |
|---------------------|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| USD (\$100,000)     | 5.675       | 5.500    | 5.500    | 5.500     |
| STG (10,000 pounds) | 5.825       | 5.500    | 5.500    | 5.500     |
| DMK (100,000 marks) | 4.000       | 4.000    | 3.875    | 3.875     |
| SFR (50,000 francs) | 3.000       | 3.000    | 3.000    | 3.000     |
| YEN (3,000,000 yen) | 3.000       | 2.750    | 2.750    | 2.750     |

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

## SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES (January 5)

|                   |      | CHEQUES AND TRANSFERS |        | BANKNOTES |      | Rep. Rates |
|-------------------|------|-----------------------|--------|-----------|------|------------|
|                   |      | Buy                   | Sell   | Buy       | Sell |            |
| Currency basket   | 1    | 1.4960                | 1.5150 | —         | —    | 1.5045     |
| U.S.A. Dollar     | 1    | 1.4688                | 1.4872 | 1.44      | 1.50 | 0.7678     |
| Deutschmark       | 1    | 0.7644                | 0.7740 | 0.75      | 0.78 | 0.7678     |
| Pound Sterling    | 1    | 2.1768                | 2.2040 | 2.13      | 2.22 | 2.1873     |
| French Franc      | 1    | 0.2311                | 0.2338 | 0.22      | 0.24 | 0.2323     |
| Japanese Yen      | 100  | 0.9255                | 0.9371 | 0.91      | 0.96 | 0.9307     |
| Dutch Florin      | 1    | 0.6782                | 0.6847 | 0.66      | 0.69 | 0.6788     |
| Swiss Franc       | 1    | 0.9080                | 0.9193 | 0.89      | 0.93 | 0.9123     |
| Swedish Krona     | 1    | 0.2178                | 0.2203 | 0.21      | 0.22 | 0.2188     |
| Norwegian Krone   | 1    | 0.1956                | 0.2023 | 0.20      | 0.21 | 0.2010     |
| Danish Krone      | 1    | 0.2018                | 0.2043 | 0.20      | 0.21 | 0.2028     |
| Finnish Mark      | 1    | 0.3086                | 0.3125 | 0.30      | 0.32 | 0.3105     |
| Canadian Dollar   | 1    | 1.0663                | 1.0796 | 1.05      | 1.08 | 1.0728     |
| Australian Dollar | 1    | 0.9832                | 0.9957 | 0.97      | 1.00 | 0.9891     |
| S. African Rand   | 1    | 0.6786                | 0.6871 | 0.44      | 0.53 | 0.6824     |
| Belgian Franc     | 10   | 0.3613                | 0.3659 | 0.35      | 0.37 | 0.3688     |
| Austrian Shilling | 10   | 0.1844                | 0.1890 | 1.06      | 1.11 | 1.0905     |
| Italian Lira      | 1000 | 1.0961                | 1.1089 | 1.07      | 1.13 | 1.1028     |
| Jordanian Dinar   | 1    | —                     | —      | 4.1972    | 4.28 | —          |
| Egyptian Pound    | 1    | —                     | —      | 0.72      | 0.77 | 0.7507     |
| ECU               | 1    | 1.5844                | 1.6042 | —         | —    | 1.5944     |



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Managing Director

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## A cause for shame

OF ALL THE "minority" groups in the country—meaning, by and large, Arabs of several varieties—none has begun to equal the Druse in the fierceness of their loyalty to the State of Israel.

Along among non-Jews to subject themselves to the requirements of military service, the Druse have fought, with distinction, in all the Israeli wars since 1948. Indeed, if there is any "minority" group whose failure to enjoy the full range of rights accruing to the country's citizens may not, even theoretically, be justified on the ground that it does not meet all the obligations of citizenship, it is certainly the Druse.

The sad fact, however, is that their close identification with the Jewish state has earned the Druse more than a little enmity on the part of Moslems and Christians without, at the same time, being duly acknowledged in popular Jewish attitudes or in government policies and their practical implementations.

Druse grievances, which have already led to some disaffection among their younger generation, are by no means completely ignored in high places.

Soon after taking over from Ezer Weizman as minister in charge of Israel Arab affairs, following the rotation last October, Moshe Arens told this newspaper that one of his first priorities would be to institute a programme of "affirmative action," designed to improve the status of the Druse who, as Mr. Arens put it, contribute their share to the state but receive less than that in housing, jobs and government services. Recalling how shaken he had been by a visit with a Druse family that had lost a son in the Lebanon war, the minister said, "Given the contribution they made, they have not had a square deal."

While there can be no doubt of Mr. Arens's sincerity, it must be recorded that the mooted "affirmative action" for the Druse has so far been conspicuous only for its absence. That is why a fellow Likud parliamentarian of the minister's, Amal Nasser a-Din, is planning to start a hunger strike next Sunday in front of the Prime Minister's Office, where Mr. Arens sits, to protest discrimination against the Druse.

The Druse deputy is particularly incensed by the fact that, despite a Knesset decision in favour of equal funding for Druse villages and Jewish settlements, the former receive only 17 per cent of the allocations given to the latter.

But unequal funding is not the only Druse complaint. There is also the issue of the demolition, or scheduled demolition, by court orders of Druse homes. These homes were put up without licence, so the fact that their owners may be army veterans, or even army invalids, should not, on the face of it, matter. But it does matter that the rash of unlawful construction in the entire Arab sector is due in large measure to a disastrous lack of government concern for Arab housing needs.

This is reported to have been duly acknowledged by the Markowitz Committee in its study submitted to the government three months ago.

The government is yet to knuckle down to a consideration of the report. But in the meantime, already in November 1985, the then premier, Shimon Peres, promised the heads of the Arab local authorities that no homes put up before 1985 would be bulldozed. That promise is not being kept today, not even in the case of the Druse.

To be sure, there is really no good reason why the Druse should constantly be singled out for entitlement to special treatment. The Beduin, too, serve in the army, although on an individual basis, yet their own illegally built structures have been the main targets of demolition. Moreover, the fact that the government chooses not to force the members of some groups, whether Arab or Jewish, to do army or even national service, cannot be deemed a legitimate cause for depriving them of their rights as citizens.

That the Druse, of all people, should today be complaining—justly—in injustice at the hands of the Jews, is nevertheless a cause for shame.

# Giving praise to whistle-blowers

Yosef Goell

AN ELDERLY man whom I met on my travels of the last few weeks told me proudly that he had been the chief cook in a government hospital not far from Tel Aviv. In the course of his work he discovered that some hospital officials had been stealing big quantities of food over a protracted period.

Since he could have been held responsible for the thefts if and when they were discovered, he decided to report his findings to the hospital's administrative manager.

The manager, he told me, turned out to have been part of the gang. The end result of his having done his duty by the hospital and the taxpayers who supported the hospital, was that he was very rapidly forced out of his job and into early retirement. As far as he knew, the large scale pilfering is still going on.

I did not have a chance to check out his allegations. But all the indications seemed to point to their being true. We were total strangers; he had no idea that I was a newspaperman; the topic came up tangentially to something else we were discussing; and he himself had chosen not to fight, but to take his paltry pension, go sit by the fire and shut up. Moreover, I do know enough other proven cases of major pilfering from government and other public hospitals and institutions, to make the man's story ring true.

Things like this are not new. We are still very far from becoming fully integrated into the mores of the Middle East in which corruption on the part of public officials is an accepted way of life, but some trends are pushing us in that direction. What is new today compared to the corruption of the 1950s and '60s, is that there is more to steal, even from financially-strapped government hospitals (remember the scenes of patients not being given enough to eat? That, and the deterioration of standards in regard to bribery, pro-

tekstia, and outright theft from the public during the better part of the last decade, compared to the improvement that seemed to be occurring in that regard in the 1970s.

This latter comparison would seem to be valid only for small-time larceny. Big-time theft from the public has been getting worse for the past 20 years, primarily because there is so much more available for the stealing.

I am, however, raising all of this in the context of a truly momentous, positive development—in the opposite direction. Recently the High Court of Justice published its reasoning for the order it had handed down, calling for Minister of Police Haim Bar-Lev to reinstate in their former jobs, three officials of the Prisons Service who had been dismissed for blowing the whistle on their boss, former prisons commissioner Rafi Suissa.

Suissa, himself, has since been forced to resign, but the three had not been reinstated. They then appealed to the High Court.

The High Court raked Bar-Lev over the coals for refusing to take seriously the evidence the three had brought to him concerning Suissa's misdeeds and for backing Suissa's decision to get rid of them. The High Court also criticized Bar-Lev for failing to see "the red warning light that had been burning there for a long time."

"We found that the removal of the appellants from their duties was carried out through the illegal application of the prison commissioner's authority and that the minister had given his approval without having checked all the relevant factors and circumstances that he should have examined," the court found.

THE HIGH Court's decision was also the first opportunity for the airing of the scandalous findings of the police comptroller Aluf (Res.) Avraham Adan, concerning Suissa. The court attached full credence to those findings, which Bar-Lev had at

first pooch-pooched, and then ordered kept secret.

The Jerusalem Post and other papers had editorialized on the matter and called on Bar-Lev to offer an explanation, which he clearly owed the public after the scathing High Court findings. But he elected to remain silent, until he was finally forced to admit his mistake, in response to a motion for the agenda on the matter in the Knesset.

In this behaviour, Bar-Lev seemed to be following in the footsteps of his Labour Party predecessors of the late Mafai days of the 1950s. David Ben-Gurion, Levi Eshkol, and Golda Meir were personally as honest as they came, but they knowingly tolerated moral and criminal misdoings on the part of their subordinates, most often "for the good of the party."

Levi Eshkol, in his easy-going tolerance for the larceny that is so many of our hearts, once reacted to evidence that a number of officials of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department had set themselves up with an allocation of land, water rights and budgets for their own gentleman farmer's settlement, by quoting the biblical injunction: "Thou shalt not muzzle an ox at his threshing."

The most worrisome development of recent years, however, has been that many political and administrative heads of the public establishment have become brazen enough to take vengeance against the whistle-blowers, rather than against the perpetrators of the misdeeds themselves. There have been scores of such cases reported in the press and on television, but to no avail. It would seem, however, that the latest High Court decision has begun to have the desirable effect.

The director-general of the State Lands Administration, Moshe Lipke, was reported to have promised Justice Minister Avraham Shari that he would not fire a Lands Administration official who had revealed a whole series of acts of

## Dry Bones

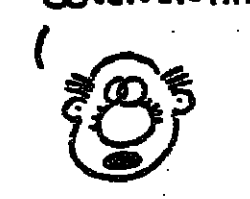
THE ONLY COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NATIONAL LAWS ABOUT WHO IS A JEW...



ARE ANTI-SEMITIC REGIMES AND US.



THE ONLY PEOPLE DISTRIBUTING THE PALESTINIAN COVENANT...



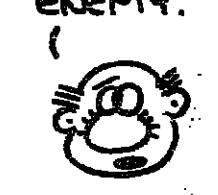
ARE THE PLO AND US.



SOMETIMES I GET THE FEELING THAT WE'RE ALL...



WORKING FOR THE ENEMY.



corruption in the agency's northern bureau. The promise came after the third attempt by the Lands Administration to fire Eli Amar, who had blown the whistle on the northern bureau officials. In a previous attempt to fire him, the state comptroller had ordered the administration to reinstate Amar in his job, declaring that he had clearly done his duty as a public servant in going public with his evidence of corruption.

These developments, of course, also bring to mind former prime minister Shimon Peres's backing of the firing of the three GSS senior officials who had come to him with evidence of the misdeeds of their boss, Avraham Shalom. Like Bar-Lev, Peres had chosen to fire the whistle-blowers rather than to investigate their charges against the culprit. In the end, it is heartening to recall, Shalom, like Suissa, was compelled to resign, but unlike the three Prisons Service officials, the GSS whistle-blowers were not reinstated, despite the publication of the Harish

report, clearly substantiating their claims against Shalom.

THE FIGHT against officials' corruption is an unending one. It is good to know that the High Court has no words in supporting honest officials against their uncaring, cynical political superiors. It is good that the state comptroller has also taken an active role in the case of Amar, and that now, the Justice Ministry is joining the fight.

What is to be done about those political leaders who concern themselves only about matters of "world-shaking importance" while ignoring—and at times, abetting—the rot that is eating away at our imarms, is in theory a matter for the voters to decide. But that has usually proved to be a chimera. It would be much more effective if a growing number of public elected and appointed officials would take heart from the High Court decision and dare to blow the whistle on the corrupt rotten apples in their midst.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

## READERS' LETTERS

### MILITARY PRESENCE IN HEBRON

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir—As a relatively new resident and IDF reservist in the region in which his unit patrols, I am disappointed that Jerusalem Post features writer Joel Greenberg may have allowed a partisan political orientation to colour reporting of his reserve unit's role in Hebron as described in The Jerusalem Post Magazine's two-part series, "Diary in Hebron" (December 5 and 19).

Greenberg candidly states his political point of view that Jews should not be allowed to live in Hebron. While this is often expressed in Israeli politics, the reserve units do not serve in Hebron to defend the Jewish settlers there, or anywhere else, for that matter. We serve in the Judean Hills because of a state of war that exists between us and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, along with the PLO, whose unchanged official political covenant advocates extermination of the State of Israel. The crisis is therefore not one of "settlers against terrorists," as Greenberg implies. The Jordanian/PLO challenge to the IDF and the State of Israel is both military and political, overshadowing our internal Israeli political debates.

### LOOKING THE OTHER WAY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir—I refer to Joel Greenberg's report of December 18, "Palestinian prisoners allege brutality." I, for one, can well believe the accusations of what went on inside the detention camp Ansar II if what happened outside the walls provided a taste of what was to come later.

In Gaza on business one day during the recent disturbances in the nearby refugee camps, I stopped my car to witness a shameful and pathetic sight. There, in full view of the public, on the main street, IDF vehicles were ferrying Arab youths into custody. About a hundred of those who arrived earlier were squatting with their foreheads and hands pressed against a long wall. A continuous roll of barbed wire had been placed tightly against their legs and lower backs. There was a constant stream of new arrivals, four at a time, who were made to run the gauntlet of a dozen or so soldiers who clubbed them to the ground. Those who could still walk were required to crawl over the wire to their positions against the wall; those who could no longer stand up were thrown on to it. Other soldiers strolled around, randomly clubbing from behind those squatting motionless against the wall.

Apart from the agonizing feelings of human compassion mixed with helplessness at witnessing such scenes, what I found to be morally more disturbing was the realization that, of the dozens of military personnel in the vicinity, I counted at least eight officers, two of whom were apparently of senior rank. What I was witnessing, then, was not

an isolated outburst of soldiers' frustration by a maverick patrol, but something that was viewed as normal behaviour and, either explicitly or implicitly, sanctioned from above. If it was not, then a monumental breakdown in discipline has recently taken place within the IDF.

Should I have "looked the other way" and driven on, seeking to forget these scenes? I turned feebly to an IDF officer watching these events from a jeep parked next to me, imploring for some sanity. His response was to politely tell me that, of course, I should indeed "look the other way."

Your columns often carry ominous warnings from foresighted observers who constantly point to the breakdown of the nation's moral fibre and its dire consequences as a direct result of the degrading practices in the territories, and we must heed them. The taboo existing in this country which prevents even the hint of a suggestion that precedents for such behaviour exist in modern European history is immense. But I would be a dishonest man if I claimed that, witnessing such events and reading of Ansar II, certain very uncomfortable analogies did not constantly flicker through my mind.

A. J. CHARTERS

Netanya (London).

### TAX CIGARETTES

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir—Almost all experts agree that reducing the government budget is a vital part of the economic recovery programme. This time around, the government is considering cutting another NIS 500m. from the budget.

One of the ministries that can ill afford another budget cut is the Ministry of Health. There is a way that the government can reduce the amount of money it provides the Ministry of Health from current tax receipts without cutting the ministry's budget. I propose an additional tax of NIS 1 on every pack of cigarettes sold, to be given to the Ministry of Health. Based on an assumed consumption of at least half a million packages of cigarettes a day, this tax would raise over NIS 150m. per year.

It is only fair that smokers, who add a considerable burden to the health care system because of all the diseases associated with smoking, should contribute more to the Ministry of Health. If the tax has the side effect of reducing the number of smokers in Israel, or the amount of cigarettes smoked (an obvious goal of the Ministry of Health), then all the better.

A similar tax can be levied on the sale of hard liquor, for the same reasons.

DAN CHEIFETZ

Petah Tikva.

### MEDICAL CARE FOR ARABS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir—I have just finished listening to a report from the BBC's Jerusalem correspondent, Paul Reynolds, on the BBC World Service. This was introduced by the announcer as being an isolated piece of good news from a region which has usually none to offer.

Mr. Reynolds then proceeded to describe the activities of St. John's Eye Hospital (Jerusalem) Mobile Eye Clinic which goes round Arab villages in the vicinity of Jerusalem and the West Bank giving free eye treatment to needy villagers who otherwise would have no source of eye-care whatsoever. This activity is financed by funds raised by the St. John's Hospital itself.

I am very pleased indeed that there is a further source of medical care, especially with regard to eyes, for the Arab population on the West Bank. What I found thoroughly dishonest was the clear implication very adroitly conveyed that Arabs in the West Bank are, totally abandoned and live in a sea of indifference as far as medical care is concerned.

It is a pity that Mr. Reynolds, in the name of fair reporting, has not done a companion piece to this item describing the work of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, plus various other clinics that have been opened

with the blessing and support of the Jerusalem Municipality specially for Arabs. He would be bound to report that literally thousands of Arabs from Israel, the West Bank, Jordan and even as far afield as Kuwait (to my own personal knowledge) manage to find their way to Jerusalem for medical treatment.

When it comes to getting good medical treatment, politics takes a back seat, thank goodness. It is true that some payment is made, but even the most cursory inspection by an unbiased observer would demonstrate that the majority of the patients are far from rich and come from all walks of life, including the poorest. I myself have waited outside the door of one of Hadassah's finest eye specialists and seen scores of Arabs going in and out. I am extremely pleased about this and rejoice that Arabs and Jews share a common facility of the highest standard.

I am perfectly aware that the occupation of the West Bank has brought many ills and injustice in its wake, this being the nature of all occupations (although this is not meant as an excuse), but one good that has resulted from it, is the raising of standards in all types of medical treatment to all sections of the Arab population.

Jerusalem. AVIVA EVEN-PAZ

## POSTSCRIPTS

### THE LOVESICK Shrewsbury

Vermont moose continues to stand by his cow. The moose wandered into a pasture owned by part-time farmer Larry Carrara during the mating season and began making cow eyes at Jessica, a brown and white Hereford.

Moose expert Charles Wiley said it was impossible for a moose and a cow to produce offspring but that it was not uncommon for moose to try to mate with cows or horses.

However he's never heard of a moose that has stayed with a cow for as long as the Shrewsbury moose—nearly two months.

"When he falls in love, he doesn't fall easily," Wiley said. "He falls hard. It obviously has bonded with that cow."

Game wardens, who said the moose would be gone when the mating season ended, now say it eventually will return to the wild—but they refuse to predict when.

"I'm through trying to outguess him," Game Warden Donald Gallus said, standing near the moose as it calmly ate twigs from an apple tree. "He's acting like he likes it here. He's playing like a big shot."

The moose's crush has drawn media attention from around the world, inspired a country-western ballad and attracted 60,000 people to Carrara's hilltop farm near the tiny town of Shrewsbury, population 600.

Carrara has already made a tidy profit from selling \$8 T-shirts, \$15 sweatshirts and \$1 bumper stickers.

## SHAS

(Continued from Page One)

Three key Shas functionaries launched a campaign yesterday to induce Peretz to stay in the cabinet as a minister without portfolio.

The three are Ya'ir Levy, Shas party secretary; Zvi Yakobson, Shas parliamentary faction secretary; and Eli Suissa, the acting Jerusalem district representative in the Interior Ministry.

They were due last night to meet one of Shas's two main spiritual mentors to entreat him to instruct Peretz to stay in the cabinet without a portfolio.

Another approach to the controversy over Miller was taken yesterday by Avraham Shapira (Agudat Yisrael) and Avner Shaki (National Religious Party) who asked the coalition executive for permission to debate an amendment to the Law of Return in the plenum tomorrow.

The amendment, sometimes dubbed the "Who's a Jew" law, would stipulate that a Jew is either one born of a Jewish mother, or one converted according to halacha (Jewish law).

Coalition chairman Rafi Edri told Shapira and Shaki that they could not present the amendment unless they got permission from Shamir and Vice Premier Shimon Peres, as the coalition agreement prescribed.

If Shapira and Shaki do not present the amendment, which is in the form of a private member's bill, an identical amendment will be presented by Avraham Verdiger (Morasha) who is not in the coalition, and hence free to act as he chooses.

At the Alignment faction executive meeting later, Edri reminded his colleagues that they were bound by party decisions to vote against the amendment to the Law of Return.

## ECONOMIC

(Continued from Page One)

reform. "We will go ahead and carry out cabinet decisions," he said.

Peres also asserted that the talks with the Histadrut would continue. Peres said the same kind of difficulties had been encountered in July 1985, when the emergency stabilization plan was launched. Originally, Peres and Nissim were

due to meet later this week with representatives of the private employers, and eventually a meeting of all three parties was to be convened. But after yesterday's stalemate it is not clear whether such meetings will take place. Peres said yesterday contacts would be held today in an effort to set a date for a new meeting with the Histadrut.

HAPPY  
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